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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

NATION



Josh Powell's boys were visiting, so he carried cans of gasoline inside and a hatchet.

➤ **PAGE 14**

ASIA



The death toll in a Philippine earthquake climbs to 15 and at least 73 are still missing.

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ASIA



Chris Brown will perform at this year's Grammy Awards.

➤ **PAGE 20**

Body found at former La Fiesta

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A body believed to be that of missing bartender Emerita “Emie” Relata Romero was found yesterday afternoon at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque. The Department of Public Safety is treating the case as a homicide.

Police officer Jason Tarkong initially confirmed only that a body of an adult female was found at the abandoned mall and refused to categorically confirm that the body was that of Romero.

Tarkong said the body still needs to be positively identified by the family once the crime scene has been completely processed and evidence gathered and preserved.

In a statement issued last night, DPS said that agents of

- Family believes remains are that of missing bartender
- FBI finds body; police treat case as homicide

the Federal Bureau of Investigation informed police around 2:44pm of the discovery of a body at the La Fiesta Mall.

“CNMI DPS coordinated the notification of Emerita’s family members here on Saipan and in the Philippines,” the statement said. “DPS is treating this case as a homicide.”

Saipan Tribune learned that Romero’s sister, Lhet Re-

See BODY on Page 4



IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE EARTH

PH consulate calls for justice

➤ **OWWA membership entitles victim’s family to \$5K-plus assistance**

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General’s officers and staff expressed their condolences to the family of the late Filipino worker Emerita “Emie” Relata Romero and urged local and federal authorities to do everything they can to obtain justice for her.

“The Consulate General joins all the relatives and friends of Emie, the Filipino community and everyone in the Northern Marianas, in offering prayers for the eternal repose of her soul and in pleading to the Lord Almighty that her family and loved

See PH on Page 4



A police officer helps secure the area surrounding the northernmost part of the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque where a body of a woman believed to be that of Emerita “Emie” R. Romero was found yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Massive cleanup of contaminated site on Capital Hill

A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractor stands in front of jumbo sacks of soil contaminated with toxic chemicals left behind after World War II near the actual cleanup site in I-Denni on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

EXCLUSIVE

Tons of soil believed contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, lead, organochlorine pesticides, diesel, motor oil, and other toxic chemicals dumped during and after World War

II are now being extracted from the I-Denni area on Capital Hill for off-island shipment and disposal, some nine years after the federal government completed a \$20-million cleanup that rid Tanapag of over of 40,000 tons of PCB-laced soil.

- Tons of soil to be shipped off island
- Site will be used for homesteads

Several dozens of jumbo white sacks containing contaminated soil. **See MASSIVE on Page 4**

US, Japan mull sending 4,700 Marines to Guam. PAGE 3
Finance disbursed \$548K SHEFA checks in January. PAGE 6

Local

SNILD wants SHEFA expenditure authority returned to Finance

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A bill returning the expenditure authority over the budget of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance from the SHEFA board chairman to the Department of Finance has been filed in the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores

urged delegation members, however, to revise House Local Bill 17-68—the SHEFA appropriation bill for fiscal year 2013—and allow the SHEFA chairman to continue to serve as the program's expenditure authority.

“As the office of SHEFA is situated within the Office of Saipan Mayor, we recommend that the delegation grant the

board of SHEFA expenditure authority of funds to be appropriated. The appropriation measure enacted into law for the current fiscal year gave the expenditure authority to the SHEFA board. We do not see any reason to remove the expenditure authority from the board for there has not been any concern expressed that would urge the delegation to make the secre-

tary of Finance the expenditure authority of SHEFA program and operations and personnel funds,” said Flores in his letter to delegation chair Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Rep-Saipan).

The SHEFA board chairman's expenditure authority over SHEFA funds is provided in Saipan Local Law 17-9, the fiscal year 2012 appropriation law.

The mayor also asked the del-

egation to exempt SHEFA from work-hour cuts because SHEFA has only one full-time employee whose annual salary and benefits are funded from SHEFA operations and personnel funds.

SHEFA is allocated \$100,000 a year. The salary of its administrator is not included in this amount as the position is funded by the mayor's office annual budget.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider told *Saipan Tri-*

bune yesterday that the fiscal year 2013 budget for SHEFA programs will not change. The bill proposes a \$3.228 million budget, of which \$3 million will go to SHEFA's financial assistance program; \$100,000 for its operation and all others; and the rest are for other projects and programs.

Since the program's inception in 2004, the CNMI government has invested \$17.7 million on SHEFA scholars.



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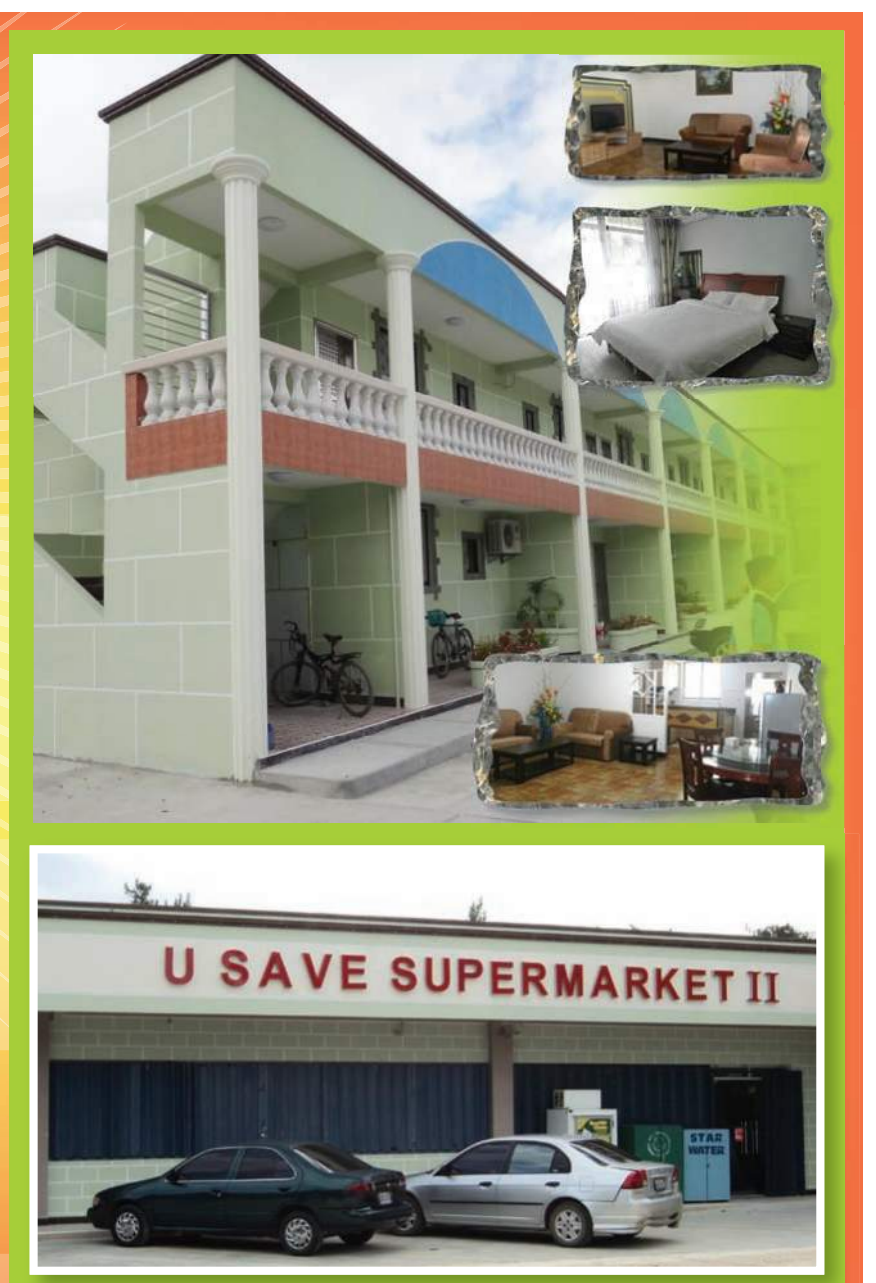
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US, Japan mull sending 4,700 Marines to Guam

ERIC TALMADGE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—The United States and Japan, hoping to break a stalemate over the U.S. military presence on Okinawa, are discussing a plan to transfer nearly 5,000 troops to Guam despite their failure to replace a major Marine base on the southern Japan island.

The transfer, a key to U.S. troop restructuring in the Pacific, has been in limbo for years because it was linked to the closure and replacement of the strategically important base, which has been fiercely opposed by local residents.

"We are not at a point where we can discuss the details, but we are looking into ways to reduce the burden on Okinawa as soon as possible," Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda told Parliament on Tuesday, a day after talks on the restructuring plan began in Washington.

The new proposal would delink the transfer and base closure issues, according to a senior Japanese official.

While talks on the base's replacement plan would continue, about 4,700 Marines—instead of the 8,000 agreed to in 2006—would be moved to Guam under the new plan, Seiji Maehara, the ruling party's policy chief, told reporters Sunday.

"We would go ahead first with less than 5,000 troops, around 4,700, being transferred to Guam," he said.

Japanese media reported the remaining 3,300 troops would be moved to Hawaii, Australia, the Philippines or other locations on a rotational basis.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland refused to comment on numbers or timing, but said Washington continues to "pursue a military presence in Japan and in the Asia-Pacific that's operationally resilient, that's geographically distributed, and that's politically sustainable."

Though it leaves the Okinawa base issue unresolved—and cuts the number of Marines to go to Guam—the compromise would be a big breakthrough in what has been a serious irritant in the otherwise robust security relationship between Tokyo and Washington.

It would also allow the United States to move forward with a regionwide restructuring of its troop deployments at a time when China is rising as a much more significant military power.

With beefed-up Navy, Air Force and Marine facilities, Guam—a tiny U.S. territory about 3,700 miles (5,955 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii and 1,500 miles (2,415

kilometers) south of Tokyo—is set to become a hub of Washington's military strategy in the Pacific.

But the Okinawa standoff has cast doubts on the multibillion dollar Guam buildup, originally scheduled to begin in 2014.

The United States and Japan agreed in 1996 to close down the Okinawa base, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, after an uproar over the rape of a local schoolgirl by three U.S. servicemen. MCAS Futenma has long been a symbol to many Okinawans of the U.S. military's large footprint on their island, and the agreement was intended to appease Okinawan sensitivities.

About half of the 50,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan are on Okinawa, which is one of Japan's smallest prefectures (states). Complaints over base-related crime, accidents and overcrowd-

ing there are endemic.

Talks to build a replacement facility quickly stalled over Okinawan demands the new base be moved elsewhere in Japan or overseas.

After another public outcry following a helicopter crash in 2004, the two governments agreed in 2006 to further reduce the burden on Okinawa by transferring about 8,000 of the 18,000 Marines on the island to Guam—if a substitute for Futenma could be found.

That also failed to appease Okinawan opposition and the standoff over the replacement plan has only deepened in recent years.

Reports of the proposal immediately raised concerns on Okinawa that it would sap the momentum away from efforts to close Futenma, although of-

ficials in Tokyo and Washington stressed they remain committed to replacing the base with another facility in a less congested part of the island.

"I think the current plan is very bad for Okinawa because it could take the big issue—the promise to close down

Futenma—off the table," said Masaaki Gabe, a professor of international relations at the University of the Ryukyus. "This kind of political game-playing is not going to please anyone here. We feel like our efforts over the past 15 years have been wasted."



That's what Henry must have been doing on that sunny Saturday morning at the reef, because that's what he caught. An eyeball. As he cast the fishing line, he hooked his daughter Natalie's left eye. Not good. Using advanced microsurgical techniques, Marianas Eye Institute's Dr. David Khorram performed the delicate surgery that removed the hook and saved Natalie's vision.

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IN TRIAL OVER BURNING OF CLOTHING STORE CASE

FirstNet prevails in lawsuit vs owner of clothing store

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

FirstNet Insurance Co. has prevailed in its lawsuit against the owner of a clothing store in Garapan that went up in flames in 2010, with the jury determining that the fire was intentionally set off to collect insurance benefits.

The seven federal jurors be-

gan deliberations on Monday and reached a verdict yesterday morning that favored FirstNet.

The jurors answered "Yes" to the two questions in the special verdict form.

The first question was: "Did FirstNet Insurance Co. meet its burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence that Zhen Rui Brother Corp. either

(1) intentionally caused the fire at the BL Clothing Store, on or about Oct. 30, 2010, or (2) that someone with the permission of Zhen Rui Brother Corp. intentionally caused the fire at the BL Clothing Store on or about Oct. 30, 2010?

The second question was: "Did FirstNet meet its burden of proof by a preponderance

of the evidence that Zhen Rui Brother Corp. intentionally and materially overstated to FirstNet Insurance the actual cash value of its loss in the fire?"

The trial began last week, Jan. 30. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona presided over the trial.

FirstNet, through counsel

Richard W. Pierce, is suing Zhen Rui Brother Corp., the owner of BL Clothing Store, for allegedly deliberately setting off the blaze so the corporation's lone owner, Zheng Biao, could claim \$414,718.53 in insurance proceeds.

Zhen Rui Brother Corp., through counsels Ramon Quichocho and Michael Dotts, countersued FirstNet for breach of contract for refusing to pay the insurance policy.

The fire broke out in the ear-

ly morning of Oct. 30, 2010. Arson investigators determined that there was an explosion at the store.

A materialist scientist from Malaysia, who was hired by FirstNet to investigate the fire, concluded that the blaze was intentionally set off. The investigator found trails of fabric that had gasoline in the store.

Biao denied burning his store. He also testified he does not know who burned the establishment.

BODY

From Page 1

lata, fainted after being told by police about the recovered body. She was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center late afternoon for observation.

The body was found at the La Fiesta Building 1, the northernmost part of the mall, which is overgrown with vegetation. Authorities immediately cordoned the vicinity of La Fiesta Buildings 1 and 2. The crime scene, Tarkong said, was processed with the assistance of the FBI and DPS.

The body was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue past 5pm. Unconfirmed information indicated that there were signs that the woman was brutally killed. Citing sources, a KSPN report said that the body showed signs of sexual assault. Information on who actually found the body was not immediately available.

Seen at the crime scene were FBI agents Joseph Auther and Jeong Park, Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro and other police detectives, prosecutors, investigators, firefighters, and personnel from Department of Homeland Security. Everyone



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
FBI agents, Department of Public Safety officers, and Office of the Attorney General officials gather at the northernmost part of the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque where a body of a woman believed to be that of Emerita "Emie" R. Romero was found yesterday afternoon.

at the scene refused to talk to the media.

At least two Homeland Security vans, including the All-Hazard Command Unit, were parked at the exit of the northernmost building.

Investigators were still in the area when *Saipan Tribune* left the scene at 6pm.

Residents of a house located adjacent to the northernmost building said they did not notice anything unusual early Sunday morning.

The victim's brother, Eduardo Relata, was still crying and being comforted by friends and

relatives at their house when *Saipan Tribune* visited their home yesterday at 6:30pm.

"We just want justice for our sister," Eduardo Relata said, adding that he has already notified their parents in Plaridel, Bulacan, about what had happened.

Eduardo Relata said they were helping conduct a search for Romero when Scott Dottino, one of the owners of Godfather's Bar, called them to cancel the search as a body had been found at the derelict mall. Dottino was seen passing by La Fiesta at 5pm aboard

a Toyota Tundra pickup truck.

Eduardo Relata said they proceeded to the scene but were not allowed to see the body.

Around 12pm yesterday, DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas held a briefing at Godfather's Bar with about 20 volunteers, mostly Romero's co-workers, friends, and relatives, to conduct a search for the victim. Mafnas split the volunteers into four groups and each group was headed by either police officers or Corrections officers. The searchers left the bar aboard several vehicles at 12:40pm.

PH

From Page 1

ones be blessed with strength in this difficult and painful period," said a Consulate statement issued yesterday.

Romero, a 37-year-old bartender at Godfather's Bar in Garapan, disappeared early Sunday morning and reportedly made a 911 call from her cell phone at about 3am just before it was cut off. A body found at the derelict La Fiesta Mall yesterday is believed to

be her remains.

Romero was reportedly last seen boarding a green or blue tinted sedan in the parking lot of Musung Building on Chichirica Avenue corner Kadena Di Amor St. in Garapan.

The Consulate said that Romero's death "is a cause for concern and reflection in the hearts and minds of peace loving Filipinos, local residents, and people of any race or creed."

"The Consulate General trusts that the authorities of the United

States and the [CNMI] shall get to the bottom of the incident and bring the perpetrators of this brazen and inhuman act to justice," the Consulate said.

In a separate interview, welfare officer Julie Fabian extended her condolences and said that the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is willing to offer their assistance to the Romero family.

Fabian confirmed that Romero signed up for an OWWA membership on March 20, 2011, entitling her family to receive some benefits from the Philip-

pine government.

Fabian said that Romero's family is entitled to receive P220,000 (about \$5,238) in death and burial benefits and P15,000 (about \$357) in livelihood assistance.

Romero's younger daughter in the Philippines, who is 8 years old, is also entitled to full scholarship from elementary to college. She has another daughter aged 17, also in the Philippines.

"We offer our deepest sympathy to the family of our departed OWWA member,

Emerita Relata Romero," Fabian told *Saipan Tribune*. "We can coordinate with our office in Manila to help facilitate the processing of the benefits for the family's use."

Fabian noted, however, that the family will need to present pertinent documents such as police report and death certificate to file their claim with OWWA.

Romero's death, Fabian said, is a "very unfortunate incident" that should remind Filipino workers in the CNMI of the importance of being an OWWA member.

According to Fabian, many Filipino workers who die while in the Commonwealth and are not OWWA members deprive their families of benefits that might otherwise provide financial support for them at a time of grief.

"We can never tell when our lives will come to an end. Romero's case shows us the advantages of being an OWWA member, which could help the loved ones we leave behind receive some form of financial assistance to get by," she said.

MASSIVE

From Page 1

nated soil were located by the entrance to the I-Denni removal site. The white sacks are labeled, "Non-RCRA Regulated Waste," and the shipper is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District.

Big trucks carrying soil were seen leaving the site, which was off-limits to the media as of yesterday afternoon.

An Army Corps contractor and a staffer from the Historic Preservation Office were at the site but refused to speak, refer-

ring questions to the Department of Public Lands.

DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, in a phone interview, confirmed that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with local agencies such as DPL and the Division of Environmental Quality, are currently cleaning up the I-Denni area on Capital Hill of soil with "contaminants" left behind after the war.

Babauta said I-Denni on Capital Hill is one of the identified Formerly Used Defense Sites, or FUDS, on Saipan, similar to Tanapag.

He said the federal government needs to clean up the site to give way to a long-planned homestead subdivision.

"Besides cleaning up the site of contamination, the significance of this is that DPL would be allowed to open up the site as a new homestead subdivision. A lot of families will benefit from this project," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), a Capital Hill resident who chanced upon the ongoing massive cleanup, said he's surprised that federal and local agencies involved in the cleanup have kept it under wraps.

"Why have they kept quiet

about this ongoing cleanup? The public needs to know that finally, the federal government is cleaning up what the U.S. military dumped in our backyard after so many decades," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the cleanup site yesterday afternoon.

Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers in the CNMI, said this particular I-Denni area was a "dumping ground" for different chemicals, as well different types of trash.

Other information such as estimated volume of contaminated soil to be extracted, where they will be shipped off and disposed

of, the specific chemicals found in the soil, amount of federal funds budgeted for the cleanup, and length of time needed to complete the cleanup have yet to be known from agencies involved.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had confirmed in 2002 the PCB and lead contamination in the I-Denni area on Capitol Hill, noting that the levels of these chemicals present in the site exceeded EPA's cleanup standards.

PCB Aroclor 1254 was detected in 25 soil samples collected from the I-Denni area, and Aroclor 1254 was detected in six soil samples, the Army Corps said in an August 2002 report.

It said 21 of the soil samples tainted with PCB exceeded EPA's preliminary remediation goal of 66 microgram per kilogram.

The Army Corps also said 30 soil samples collected from the area contained lead concentration in excess of EPA's preliminary remediation goal of 400 mg/kg. The maximum lead concentration measured in the area was 4,400 mg/kg.

Mercury was detected at low levels with a maximum concentration of 8.4mg/kg.

Also detected were organochlorine pesticides, diesel and motor oil, and tetrachloroethylene, among others.

Fitial signs dormant account bill into law

»New local law gives \$20K in poker fees to Rota programs

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia signed into law a revenue-generating bill allowing the government to have access to dormant and inactive bank accounts and unclaimed funds for the account of the depositor.

House Bill 17-139, House Draft 2, or The Escheat Act of 2011, is now Public Law 17-69. Fitia signed the bill on Monday,

but copies of the new law were released only yesterday.

In the CNMI, the amount of time of inactivity before a bank can declare an account as dormant/inactive varies from one to two years or more.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), author of the bill, said banks have historically charged dormant/inactive fees ranging from \$15 to \$20 a month.

"These bank charges on dormant accounts can chip away at

savings account and balances quickly and over time may cause the account to reach a balance of zero. Certain states and territories such as Connecticut and American Samoa have put forward legislation to prevent banking institution from raiding savings accounts in an effort to protect the account holder from losing their hard-earned funds," Yumul said in his bill.

Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar earlier said this bill,

once signed into law, will better provide transparency and services to consumers and respond to their needs in "preventing banking institutions from raiding savings accounts in an effort to protect the account holder from losing their hard-earned funds."

Igisomar had said Commerce will immediately work with the Department of Finance and the Office of the Attorney General to expedite the promulgation of regulations.

\$20K for Rota programs

Fitia also signed yesterday a local bill appropriating \$20,000 in poker fees for Rota patients and programs.

Rep. Teresita Santos's (Ind-Rota) House Local Bill 17-67, Substitute 1 is now Rota Local Law 17-18.

The \$20,000 collected from poker and pachinko slot machines will be appropriated for the following: \$7,200 for eight dialysis and terminally ill patients at \$450 each for

December 2011 and January 2012; \$6,600 for 11 dialysis and terminally ill patients at \$300 each for December 2011 and January 2012; \$675 to defray the medical expenses for the late Milagro H. Manglona, a terminally ill patient until his death; and \$555 to defray the medical costs for the late Leo Taisacan, also a terminally ill patient until his death.

The rest will also go to the following: \$2,000 for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation; \$2,000 for the retroactive pay of employees; \$570 for the Rota Liaison Office's fuel; and \$400 for Rota Little League for supplies and equipment.

Six public elementary schools register for Parade of Books

»Rotary calls on private schools to join competition

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan is calling on private elementary schools to sign up for this year's Parade of Books.

Rotarian and parade coordinator Reina Camacho said yesterday that only public schools have so far registered for the 8th Annual Parade of Books that will be held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium on April 14.

Camacho disclosed that six schools have already signed up for the annual educational competition: Dandan, Gregorio T. Camacho, Koblerville, Oleai, San Vicente, and Tinian elementary schools.

The competition is open to all public and private elementary schools in the CNMI.

"We need the private elementary schools to register for the contest," Camacho said.

Participating private schools

in last year's event were Golden Harvest International School and Green Meadow School.

Parade of Books is part of Rotary's efforts to encourage literacy and creativity and instill the importance of reading among the islands' youth in a fun and innovative way.

This year's competition will have participating schools choose from a selected list of books that reflect Rotary values and principles.

Camacho said they held a successful first orientation meeting at the MHS gym on Feb. 1. Except for Tinian Elementary School, participating schools sent their representatives to the Wednesday meeting. Each school received a copy of last year's Parade of Books recording as an incentive.

"It was great," said Camacho. "We went over the new rules and

they're okay with a more structured format. We're pleased because that was a major concern, having to put more parameters

for the participants."

Camacho said they will be holding their next orientation meeting on March 7, 5:30pm at

the Oleai Elementary School.

To sign up or for more information, call Camacho at 664-8512 or email reinacamacho@gmail.com or saipanrotary@gmail.com.

Arts council beefs up staff

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture has welcomed two new employees to help run office operations and fulfill its mission.



Moteisou

Visual and traditional coordinator Darrell Moteisou and administrative assistant Erica Trinidad officially came on board on Jan. 19.

Moteisou, who is a member of the performing group Island Warriors, said his new job is "very different" from his last work at the Department of Public Lands where he served as a homestead technician.

"It's fun being in charge of exhibits. I'm enjoying it. Now that I'm with the Arts Council, I plan to bring in new ideas and help improve our programs," said Moteisou, whose first major task was to put up the ongoing Island Artist Exhibit at the Saipan Grand Hotel lobby.

Moteisou believes that art is part of one's daily life. "Without art, our history and culture will

not be as rich and colorful."

Trinidad, who used to be a Language teacher with the Public School System, said being with the Arts Council allows her to get to know local artists more.



Trinidad

Trinidad is tasked to handle the council's day-to-day operations and maintain its records.

"Through the Arts Council, we get to promote our talented local artists and their beautiful artworks," said Trinidad. She plans to share her PSS experience with the council's Arts in Education program.

Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog said their office has long been operating with only himself and Arts in Program coordinator Parker Y. Yobei.

"With the additional staff, we can focus on getting more exhibits organized and encourage more artists to register with the Council. We are very pleased to welcome them and we look forward to their meaningful contributions toward the preservation of arts and culture in the Commonwealth," he said.

NEW PARADISE FLORIST Valentine's Day Special

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

OPTION A

6 full bloom
Roses with mini
Roses in a
basket

OPTION B

6 Roses, Stuff Toys,
Chocolate, HVD Balloon
and HVD Pick in
a Basket

OPTION C

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Toys, Chocolate, HVD
Balloon & HVD Pick
in Basket

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Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

is hosting a comprehensive

Grants Workshop

In conjunction with the Graduate School USA's

Pacific Islands Training Initiative

and

The U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs

Eight-day Workshop:

February 21-24, February 27-March 1

7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Saipan NMC Room D-1, Tinian and Rota NMC VTC Rooms

Topics covered will include:

- Planning, Obtaining, and Successfully Completing Grants and Contracts
- Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles for Grants and Other Agreements
- Effective Fiscal Management of Grants

Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information or to register, please email kilili@mail.house.gov or call 323-2647.

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Finance disbursed \$548K SHEFA checks in January

»Pending scholarship awards for fall 2011 at \$391K

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance disbursed \$548,000 in grant awards to scholars of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance last month, according to SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider.

This disbursement covered 261 checks worth \$473,100 for fall 2011 scholars and 16 checks worth \$75,000 for Framingham State College students.

Hofschneider disclosed yesterday that succeeding check requests for 258 students who are still waiting for their fall

2011 grant awards remains pending at Finance.

To date, four check request lists were submitted to Finance, Hofschneider said.

The first list was recently disbursed.

Those that remain pending are the check requests for 187 students on the second list amounting to \$272,400; checks for 51 students on the third list amounting to \$83,400; and checks for 20 students on the fourth list, amounting to \$36,000. These total \$391,000.

Because of appeals and re-review conducted on some fall 2011 applications, nine students will be added to

these lists. The check request for these students is now being prepared. This amounts to less than \$10,000.

All these, if disbursed soon, will complete the awarding of scholarship grants to fall 2011 semester scholars, Hofschneider said.

He said that nothing has been disbursed yet for scholars in the spring 2012 semester, which just started, as review of applications is ongoing.

As of yesterday, Hofschneider said he will be recommending the approval of 159 applications at the board's next meeting this month. These include 103 ongoing on-island students; eight new

on-island students; 47 ongoing off-island students; and one new off-island student. Once approved by the SHEFA board, a check request will be turned in to Finance.

Hofschneider said that SHEFA aims to approve 450 to 500 scholarship applications this semester.

Applications for spring 2012 scholarship were due on Dec. 1, 2011, but for ongoing students, their supporting documents are due at the end of this month. Hofschneider vowed to adhere to the board policy of equally dividing the \$3 million scholarship budget for SHEFA: \$1.5 million for the fall semester and \$1.5 million for the spring semester.

Wilshire's contract now with AG; hiring of money managers on hold

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The contract of NMI Retirement Fund consultant Wilshire Associates is now with the Office of the Attorney General, according to board chair Sixto K. Igisomar yesterday.

It is expected that once the signatures of all parties involved are in, the consultant's service to the Fund will immediately begin.

Wilshire agreed to return to the embattled pension agency following the repeal of the

Beneficiaries Derivative Act that was enacted in September last year. The firm had terminated its contract with the Fund due to increased exposure to liability as a result of the Act's passage.

Under Wilshire's new contract, it will be paid a lesser fee compared to its last arrangement. From \$195,000 a year, it will now be paid \$165,000 as a result of the declining asset of the pension program.

As for the contract of the actuarial consultant, Igisomar disclosed that it is now under

review by Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, who will soon make a formal presentation to the board. Buck Consultant's proposal, he said, will also be reviewed by the board. He declined to divulge the fees and other details of the new contract pending approval by the full board.

Meantime, the hiring of money managers is on hold until further notice or as soon as Wilshire is on board, Igisomar said. Like Wilshire, the Fund's money managers also terminated their contracts last year in the wake

of the passage of the derivative law.

According to Villagomez yesterday, the Fund's investment portfolio had an estimated and unaudited market value of \$255,746,376 as of Jan. 31. Of this amount, \$105 million is in the certificate of deposit account registry service, or CDARS program, while \$145 million is in mutual funds. Wilshire is expected to come up with a new plan on how to best invest the Fund's portfolio once it officially comes aboard.

Over 700 students join first round of Mathcourt competition

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System had an overwhelming turnout in the first round of the yearly Mathcourt competition for the elementary division, with 770 participants registering for Saturday's competition at Koblerville Elementary School.

Reo Arriola, Mathcourt coordinator for the K-5 division and vice principal of Dandan Elementary School, said that a total of 17 public and private schools participated in the preliminary rounds.

He disclosed that PSS has seen a steady increase in the number of schools and students that compete in Mathcourt every year. Just two years ago, the event had less than 400 participants. Since then, it has been constantly hitting over 700 students per meet.

Arriola said they expect to see an increase in both schools' and students' participation in the March competition because many missed the February meet deadline.

"We think interest in the competition is spreading through word of mouth, many schools are finding out the benefits of being exposed to challenging math questions based on CNMI standard and benchmarks, through healthy competition among schools," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mathcourt has two divisions: K-5 and 6-12th grade divisions. Both divisions have two regular meets followed by regional com-

petitions. The K-5 division always comes after the 6-12 division and is usually held in February to give K-5 students more time to be exposed to the benchmarks that will be used to come up with the test questions.

Unlike the 6-12th division, winners in the elementary contest will not compete in the national Mathcourt events, but Arriola said that PSS is looking into this option.

He described many students as "very motivated" and look forward to the competition. Many schools, he added, have started training students early in the year in anticipation of these events.

"We try to make the competition more challenging each year, adding questions that not only test math fluency but also literacy as well," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to him, all questions are formulated using the PSS standards and benchmarks as their guide.

"Our focus is to not only build math fluency but math literacy as well. We find many students being able to answer math computations, but as soon as we formulate questions into word form, they have a hard time figuring out what to do. Part of our goal is to make sure that students are familiar with math vocabularies [ex. quotient, relation symbols, etc.] as well as fluency, so they may incorporate their math knowledge into their everyday life and become lifelong learners," he added.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-006, REV. #1

PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE FOR POWER PLANT 1 & 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is resoliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project Management and Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish all labor, material and logistics associated with the Project Management Services including Design and Onsite Construction Management for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project. Tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies (including US EPA and/or US DOT). It is preferred that the contractor have the in-house capability and qualifications to perform all the functions required (i.e. - Project management to include Design and Construction Management services) and not subcontract any part to third party vendors.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8-inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8-inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe pigging, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes. Design engineers are required to obtain the relevant licenses in CNMI, as per local professional licensing rules and regulations, details of which are available on the webpage, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Court. The project is funded primarily by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs.

The Revised Scope-of-Work (SOW) will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) (CHST-Chamorro Standard Time), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays. All other documentation can be downloaded from the website, <http://cuccnmi.net/>.

The response to this RFP must be received with the title **"PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE"** and **shall only be sent** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via e-mail to manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail to mika.muna@cucgov.org no later than **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** local time and the equivalent time of **Tuesday February 28, 2012, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. Late submissions and other means of submission will not be considered. A return receipt for the email must be requested and received by the proposer to ensure that the email transmission has been received by the deadline, by CUC.

All inquiries and clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM ChST**, and the equivalent time of Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org; and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation. All interested parties including those who have participated in the recently closed RFP are requested to also register through the website - <http://cuccnmi.net/> or e-mailing their request to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail mika.muna@cucgov.org, no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM (ChST)** local time or the equivalent time of **Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. CUC requires all the proposers to send their questions in writing so that the responses can also be made available to all the interested vendors, well in time.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-12-007

SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA EXTENSION, EXPLORING DRIVE-FINA SISU & HERMAN'S BAKERY WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The project consists, in general of the extension of the San Vicente water service area to Dandan Village and the replacement of existing water distribution line from Exploring Drive to Fina Sisu and Herman's Bakery including appurtenances.

The proposed project will also include the installation of fire hydrants, air relief valves, blow-off-valves, new service lateral stub-outs and reconnection of existing service laterals to the new water distribution line.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 350.00 for one set; at the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **February 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-12-007, San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 06, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 27, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org or Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

New program seeks to help US workers land jobs

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Local businesses are urged to support a non-profit program that will help U.S. eligible workers gain job-seeking skills that would help improve their chances of landing entry-level jobs.

Bridge Project was established last year but the concept was actually formed as early as 2008, according to founder Jim T. Arenovski.

Arenovski, who was guest speaker at yesterday's Rotary Club of Saipan general membership meeting, said that Bridge Project is a free nine-course "guaranteed job interview program" funded by a grant from the Department of the Interior through the CNMI Department of Commerce.

The program is open to U.S. eligible workers of any age—whether high school students or displaced workers from the public and private sectors—who will be trained to get them "to the point where they could confidently conduct themselves in an interview."

According to Arenovski, many U.S. eligible workers submit applications without identifying any skills or work references and still expect to get interviews. Some of them go to their interviews wearing shorts or even bring their babies with them for lack of a babysitter.

"These are not bad people or un-hirable people but it does put a negative light when it comes to the competitive nature of doing an interview," said Arenovski. Bridge Project hopes to make these job applicants "impressive" and give them "a competitive advantage" that would land them a job.

The Bridge Project, Arenovski said, involves weekly or twice-a-week sessions that would train participants using various tools such as class instruction and videos, which are "not going to be academia."

"This is business people talking to folks that want to get a job in the business. Classes



will be practical and hands-on. We will use real-world experience for these folks to get them a real-world experience when they walk in the door for the interview," explained Arenovski, who will serve as the program instructor. He added that there will be guest lecturers, depending on the course.

Arenovski, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Businessperson of the Year, said the program will cover courses in writing cover letters and resumes, job-seeking and interview skills, communication skills, customer service, cultural diversity, and budgeting.

They will also conduct client assessment, as well as English and math skills to ensure that applicants are on the right track or need some extra course work.

"To have those skills under their pockets is going to give them a really sizeable amount of confidence to go into the interview," said Arenovski. "But it's not the catch-all. It's not going to be everything for them."

He pointed out that there will be a small screening among those who are interested to be part of the program as their target trainees is capped at 100. The program is scheduled to begin in the first week of March.

He revealed that the Bridge Project was prompted by Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law, which requires companies in the CNMI to zero out foreign labor to zero by 2014.

"That means we need to actively participate in getting more local or U.S. eligible workers into the workforce," said Arenovski. "As employers, we need to get on that bandwagon. We need to make sure our youth and

those displaced workers that are not so young can have an opportunity to have a job."

Arenovski, president of Delta Management, said his company has been committed to hiring local workers "from day one." His company operates several Shell stations on island.

Arenovski said he is working with Alfred Pangelinan, Employment Services director at the CNMI Department of Labor, in getting participants to join the program.

"No matter how you look at the numbers, you know there are opportunities for U.S. eligible workers to get into workforce," he added.

To join Bridge Project or for more information, call 287-7037 or email deltamgt@pticom.com.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2011 Businessperson of the Year Jim T. Arenovski, right, talks about the non-profit program Bridge Project during the Rotary Club of Saipan general membership meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday. With him is Rotary president Pete Igitol.

Australia exhibit to feature work of Saipan-born artist

Pohnpeian-Saipanese artist Yvonne C. Neth will have six of her large charcoal works exhibited as part of Maketi Ples, a selling exhibition of Pacific Islands-based fine art, showing at Global Gallery in Sydney, Australia, from Feb. 22 to March 11, 2012.

The annual exhibition, which is being billed the creative art keystone event of 2012, accepts work from artists living and working in 14 Pacific Island nations: the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Niue.

Maketi Ples 2012 will be

held at Global Gallery, 5 Comber Street, Paddington, NSW, Australia.

Neth, who is a licensed pilot and the safety inspector for FSM's Division of Civil Aviation, was personally invited to exhibit by the event organizers after they saw examples of her work online. She will be the first artist from the Micronesian region to participate.

Neth, who is a self-taught artist working primarily with charcoal, graphite, ink, and pastel, grew up both on Saipan and Pohnpei and earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology from University of Hawaii at Manoa. She moved back to Pohnpei in 2009. (PR)

REPUBLICAN PARTY
Get Together
Celebration

Sunday, February 12, 2012
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Garapan Fishing Base

The Republican Party of the NMI Association
Invites the General Public to attend its Get Together
Celebration. New, Current and Past Supporters,
Members of GOP, Members of other Parties/Independents
interested in joining the GOP, Friends and Families are
Welcomed and Highly Encouraged to Attend.

Please join us.

Free Food and Entertainment
A mini fundraiser will also take place for future party needs.

Paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI Association.

Energy awareness drive begins next week

The Division of Energy will be kicking off its first Energy Awareness Campaign for 2012 on Friday, Feb. 17, 2012, with two sessions (morning or afternoon) and on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012, with one morning session only at the Pacific Island Club.

This event will provide the residential community tips on how to conserve energy at home and how to save money using energy efficient products that carry the Energy Star label. This event will educate the community on the importance of energy conservation in the CNMI.

Due to limited seating, interested individuals must pre-register with the CNMI Energy Division office to confirm attendance and seating by Feb. 16,

2012, from 7:30am to 4:30pm. In addition, registered attendees will be required to present a copy of their most recent utility bill, in their names, to be allowed to participate in the scheduled sessions.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- Friday, Feb. 17, 2012
1st session: 8am to 11am
2nd session: 1pm to 4pm
- Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012
One session only: 8am to 11am

For more information, contact the CNMI Division of Energy office at 664-4480/1.

This project is made possible through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. *(Office of the Governor)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman High sets homecoming

Kagman High School will be celebrating its homecoming to commemorate 10 years on Feb. 11, 2012, from 9am to 1pm, at the Kagman High School courtyard (some events will be held at the basketball court. The school is inviting all current and former students, current and former teachers/staff, current and former administrators, and all education officials to the event. Intended activities include carnival games, class and club performances, food/snacks, pickup games of basketball and volleyball (alumni vs current students). *(PR)*

Manta Band selling raffle tickets

The Manta Ray Band is host-

ing a mega raffle ticket fundraiser for its trip to the 2012 Olympics in London. The group expects to sell 3,000 raffle tickets at \$50 apiece. The grand price is \$5,000 in cash. The raffle will be held on May 4. A ticket purchase entitles the buyer to meet and watch the band perform on May 4 with light refreshments provided. They don't need to be present to win. *(PR)*

US, Japan, Australia air forces set training

The U.S. Air Force and Navy, Japan Air Self Defense and Royal Australian Air Force will conduct training on FDM on the following dates and times:

- Feb. 8, from 7am to 11pm
- Feb. 9, from 8:30am to 3pm

The Air Force and Navy will conduct training at W-517 on the following dates and times:

- Feb. 8, from 8am to 5pm

The Air Force will conduct training at W-517 on the following dates and times:

- Feb. 9-10, from 8am to 5pm

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. *(USN)*

MHS Class of 1983 meeting

This is to invite Marianas High School's Class of 1983 to a general meeting this Friday, Feb. 10, 2012, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, Civic Center, Susupe. For more information, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. *(PR)*

at least 24-hours prior to training date. A \$70 course-fee is required to participate in these trainings. Two-year certification cards are issued at end of training. Register by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visiting www.redcross.org/training. For more information contact the local chapter at 234-3459. *(ARC)*

CPA amends procurement rules and regs

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is notifying the public that the CPA has promulgated amendments to its Procurement Rules and Regulations. The revised regulations established a Procurement Section; addressed the handling of abandoned property and salvaged property; addressed procurement during an emergency and calamity; updated the provisions regarding requests and proposals; clarified provisions relating to invitations for bids, clarified provisions relating to public records and the manner of their disclosure inclusive of the Open Government Act; and other minor and technical revisions. Persons or entities wishing to review the revised Procurement Rules and Regulations should visit the CPA administration office at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport or call 237-6500. *(CPA)*

Red Cross sets training schedule

The American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter will be conducting the Health & Safety training at its training room on Airport Road.

First Aid: Wednesday, Feb. 8, 6pm to 9pm

Adult CPR/AED: Thursday, Feb. 9, 6pm to 9pm

Pediatric CPR/AED: Saturday, Feb. 25, 8am to 11:30am

Pre-registration is required



Feb. 8, 1999

Law settles \$6.63M MIHA delinquency

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed a bill into law that would authorize the Commonwealth Development Authority to write off some \$6.63 million in unpaid loans accumulated by the defunct Marianas Islands Housing Authority. In effect, the law would allow the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., a CDA subsidiary created to replace MIHA, to secure financing package for its home loan program designed for low and moderate income families. The amount represents portion of the \$10 million in principal loan and interest payment due to CDA under an agreement entered into with MIHA on January 1987 for the construction of 150 housing units. However, MIHA was only able to built 52 units until it was dissolved in 1994 by Executive Order 94-3, which paved the way for the creation of NMHC. All assets and debts of MIHA were assumed by the housing corporation, impeding its ability to generate revenues necessary to carry out is home loan program for the commonwealth's citizens.

RP Consulate announces Lakbay Aral

The Philippine Consulate is inviting members of the Filipino community to participate in the Lakbay-Aral program slated in July. Lakbay-Aral or the "Travel Study" of the Philippine government is open to Filipinos who are residing abroad and are between 15 to 25 years old for a journey back home. Based on the information provided by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, the program has scheduled activities that will highlight the richness of the Filipino culture, its traditions and values. For a \$900 fee for each participant, its travel itinerary will include visits to Banaue, Baguio, Pampanga, Laguna and Bulacan. In Banaue, participants will witness the rituals of its native Ifugao. After which, they proceed to the summer capital of the Philippines. They will also have stopovers at the Rizal Shrine in Calamba and the Barasoain Church of Malolos.

Feb. 8, 2001

Fund hires in-house utilization reviewer

In compliance with the recommendations made by the Office of Public Auditor, the NMI Retirement Fund implements its utilization review program in hopes to prevent fraudulent health claims and overblown medical charges. Health and Life Insurance Program Manager Dolores Moore disclosed yesterday that papers of the newly-hired utilization review personnel is currently being processed. However, Moore refused to divulge the identity of the in-house review personnel pending the release of his official papers.

Torres lauds BOE for Anatahan school

Rep. William S. Torres commended the State Board of Education and the Public School System for upbeat efforts in pushing for the construction of the Anatahan school in the Northern Islands. In a letter addressed to BOE Capital Improvement Projects Chair Roman C. Benavente, the legislator thanked the public education sector for "making the dreams of the students from Anatahan a reality" through this landmark project on the remote island. The establishment of a one-story structure to accommodate some 20 students is a part of PSS' 10-year CIP blueprint.

Feb. 8, 2002

NMI gets \$13-M in US grants

In the presence of his staff, special advisers and the media, Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday signed two grant documents that would give the CNMI a total of \$13 million in federal funds. Babauta said the two grants represent \$11 million in Capital Improvement Program funds for fiscal year 2001-2002 and \$2 million in Compact Impact payments. He said he received notification about the two grants last week from the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

Lizama files \$16M suit against insurance firms

Juan T. Lizama slapped a \$16.2 million lawsuit against Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. for alleged failure to settle insurance obligations in connection to a car collision that occurred more than a decade ago. Lizama, who suffered severe injuries from that crash, claims he is an innocent third-party beneficiary under applicable insurance policies. The plaintiff, in a complaint filed at the Superior Court, said that when he sought payment for damages as a result of the accident, TMFI and PIU allegedly failed to investigate and settle his insurance claims.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
SALE/ASSIGNMENT OF LOANS
RFP NO. RF 12-006

OPENING DATE: February 8, 2012 CLOSING DATE: March 12, 2012

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is seeking proposals from qualified financial institutions including government agencies interested in purchasing and capable of servicing the Fund's loan portfolios made under the Fund's Member Home Loan Program.

To receive the RFP packet, fax, e-mail or mail your request to:

Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax: (670) 664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of January 5, 2012 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings

1. Conditional Use Application #2011-2880: Mr. Jae Yeol Lim of Greenstar Corporation is proposing to operate a "zipline" adventure and amusement designed to enable users to travel from top to bottom of inclined cables to be supported by wooden towers. This proposal will be located on public lands in Gualo Rai on lots TR#33-6, lot #040 F 06, TR# 33-8, and Lot #137 F 02. These areas are zoned as Rural.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

None

E. New Business.

1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012
2. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Greenstar Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for a Conditional Use permit. Mr. Jae Yeol Lim of Greenstar Corporation is proposing to operate a "zipline" adventure and amusement designed to enable users to travel from top to bottom of inclined cables to be supported by wooden towers. This proposal will be located on public lands in Gualo Rai on lots TR#33-6, lot #040 F 06, TR# 33-8, and Lot #137 F 02. These areas are zoned as Rural.

Date: February 15, 2012, Wednesday

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, February 14, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Newest FOA production mixes history, romance



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Egyptian Army captain Radames, played by Mark Gonzales, is flanked by soldiers during the rehearsal for *Aida, the Musical*, the latest offering of the Friends of the Arts.

On Feb. 14, 18, and 19, 2012, the Friends of the Arts is presenting *Aida, the Musical* by Tim Rice, Elton John, Linda Woolverton, et al, adapted from *Aida*, the opera by Giuseppe Verdi. This musical is about *Aida* and Radames falling in love with each other.

The story opens in the present time, at the Egyptian exhibit of an art museum, and shows the re-incarnation of the two main characters, *Aida* and Radames, and then moves to the inner story, back in time to the African continent, in ancient Egypt, to explain and explore this love. It demonstrates the power of love, not ending even after their deaths, reborn into their new lives and attracted to each other without knowing or remembering why.

Aida is a Nubian princess who was captured by Egyptian soldiers, and Radames is the captain of the Egyptian military. Radames is betrothed to Amneris, the Pharaoh’s daughter, but he falls in love with *Aida*, whom he gives to Amneris as a present. Radames’ growing love for *Aida* is apparent to all, and while Amneris feels the sting, it is Zoser, the father of Radames, who acts to prevent it.

This powerful and romantic musical is a perfect choice for February, when the CNMI community celebrates both Black History Month and Valentine’s Day as it is a romance set in the ancient African continent.

The show is directed by Paul Dujua, with Harold Easton as producer. The cast includes Mariel Ferrer as *Aida*, Mark Gonzales as Radames, Rosemarie Liangco as Amneris and Paul Dujua as Zoser. The cast has been rehearsing for weeks, practicing the choreographed dance moves and learning the songs and harmonies that make this show memorable.

The show will be presented at Charley’s Cabaret, Pacific Islands Club. On Valentine’s Day, it is a dinner show, with a special menu at 6pm and the show at 7:30pm. The price of the Valentine’s Day ticket is \$65 per adult or \$50 for FOA members. The time of the weekend shows is at 7pm. The price of the ticket is \$15 for adults, \$12 for FOA members, and \$8 for students. For more information or reservations, contact Frank Gibson at 789-8674 or flgibson@yahoo.com. **(PR)**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 18th birthday to Sam “Malibu” Sablan! Wishing you many more birthdays and blessings your way. Enjoy your day, be safe, and God bless! Cheers! Greetings coming out from Nana Girl, TunJohn, Nini Girl and Leina Mae, your Malibu FamBam, friends, and most especially from your two favorite people in the world, Wil-Leng Cabrera! We love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Roxanne R. Ben, who celebrated her 8th birthday on Feb. 4! May the good Lord bless you always. We love you! Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq.
O’Connor Berman Dotts & Banes
Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza
One Nauru Loop
P.O. Box 501969
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-5684
Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for Plaintiff Wells Fargo Financial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11 - 0061
vs.	SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
JESUS A. DELEON GUERRERO and VISITACION T. DELEON GUERRERO, Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated October 19, 2011, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants Jesus A. DeLeon Guerrero and Visitacion T. DeLeon Guerrero’s interests in Tract 22508-6, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O’Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Tract 22508-6, (part of original Tract 22508, AH 246), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2114/89, the original of which was recorded 28 June 1989 as Document No. 89-2006 at Commonwealth Recorder’s Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. **The approximate size of the lot is 3,287 square meters, it is located on Gaole Drive in AsLito, Saipan and it is improved by a single storey concrete dwelling approximately 1,034 square feet in size. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Francisco Ermitanio of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. at Tel. No. 235-6030.**

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
A) Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.
B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O’Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the auction sale is completed. The balance must be paid to Plaintiff, in care of the undersigned, within five (5) calendar days of the sale. If the balance is not paid within five (5) calendar days of the sale, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and the property may be resubmitted for sale, or sold to the next highest bidder, at Plaintiff’s option.
D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2012.

/s/ Gregory J. Koebel
Gregory J. Koebel – F0177
O’Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 237 E 02, containing an area of approximately 5,751 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Marianas Meat Harvesting Corporation. The Directors of the Corporation are Mr. Joseph Borja, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino, and Mr. Paul Zak.

The Officers of the Corporation are Mr. Joseph Borja – President, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino – Treasurer, and Mr. Paul Zak – Secretary / Vice President.

iii. The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Joseph Borja and Mr. Anthony Pellegrino.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating a USDA certified meat slaughtering facility and related activities.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years. The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before February 14, 2012 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT MAPROPONIN ATKILON TĀNU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(b) gi Lain Publiku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku guini ha nā'i nutisia ni intension-ña para u mana'ma'atkila pumalu na tānu' publiku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas siha. Maseha hāyi na pattida siha gi halum i publiku henerāt siña ha na'hālum i imfotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñun kinentra siha gi tinahguin propositu siha ni para i atkilon tānu' publiku. Sigi mās mo'na mapribeniya ginin i Lain Publiku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesin imfotmasion ni madimānda ni debi na u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tānu' publiku ha diskribi kumu Lot No. 237 E 02, ni kinonsisti āria kāsi guaha 5,751 square meters, mās pat menus, ni gaigi giya Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i lugāt gaigi gi pumalu na gumuaha gi Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku siha ni para i rikunosimientu.

ii. I manatkikila i Marianas Meat Harvesting Corporation . I Direktot i Corporation siha si Siñot Joseph Borja, Siñot Anthony Pellegrino, yan si Siñot Paul Zak.

I Ufisiālīs siha gi ārian Corporation si Siñot Joseph Borja – Presidenti , si Siñot Anthony Pellegrino - i Tresureru, yan si Siñot Paul Zak - Sekritāriu /Sigundu Presidenti.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon manigosiu gi as Siñot Joseph Borja yan Siñot Anthony Pellegrino.

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa i lugāt solamienti para hinangai developing yan operating i fasilidāt i USDA certified meat slaughtering yan i mana'achuli' na aktibidāt siha.

I teman i maproponi na kuntrātan atkilon sa’ 25 āñus, yan option para u ma’ekstendi i atkilon gi ta’lu 15 āñus.

I maproponi na āpas atkilon gi sakkan gi durāntin i tema sigun gi percentage gi appraised fair market value gi propiedāt, ingklusu i present i estroktura.

v. Kopian i manmaproponi na kontrātan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinin i Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku siha, gaigi gi sigundu bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; gi Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet 1st bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku siha tāya' na ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para sinuhetun atkilon tanu' publiku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritāriun i Dipattamentun Tanu' Publiku siha debi na u aksept a tinigi' i imfotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñun kinentra pat tinahguin propositu siha ginin i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat āntis di Fibreru 14, 2012 gi ufisinin Dipattamentun Tānu' Publiku siha ni gaigi Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sāngi Tānil ye 106(b) mellól Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka remuschál emwal rebwe isisilong jaar mǎngemǎng, data awewee, me angiingi reel pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap. Sengi Alléghul Toulap ye 15-2, ebwal ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáari Lot No. 237 E. 02, eyoor Limwoow Sangaras, Fisabwughúw limeigh me eew laapal(5,751 square meters) elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap(Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilón nge Marianas Meat Harvesting Corporation. Direkktoodol Corporation yel nge Mr. Joseph Borja, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino me Mr. Paul Zak.

Schóól officers il Corporation yel nge Mr. Joseph Borja-President, Mr. Anthony Pellegrino-Treasurer, me Mr. Paul Zak-Secretary/Vice President

iii. Schóól aweweey akkilon yel nge Mr. Joseph Borja me Mr. Anthony Pellegrino

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááy falúw yeel rel ebwe ayoora me angaanga eew leliyal lil maal iye USDA certified me bwal akkaw mwóghutughut.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráagh (25 years). Emmwel rebwe bwal sóóbwey ngáli seigh me limoow ráagh (15 years).

Pomwol méél akkilon nge ebwe mwiril sāngi percentage il yaal appraised fair market value il falúw.

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi merel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building Ilól Tuturam, Seipél; Songsong village, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughi ischil mǎngemǎng, aingiingil merel amweyút mmwal Febreru 14, 2012 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, ngare Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

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Pacific Islands News Association

Komen turnabout proves the power of protest

The swift retreat of the Susan G. Komen foundation Friday from its assault on Planned Parenthood is a timely reminder of the power of protest, especially when its target and purpose are clear and its voices are not only strong but also credible.

The national Komen organization earlier in the week had cut off funding for Planned Parenthood's breast cancer exams for poor women, using the excuse of a sham congressional investigation into the agency, a minuscule portion of whose work involves abortions. If just declaring an investigation of a charity were accepted as cause for denying funding, then any wing-nut lawmaker could cripple any cause on a whim.

The outrage at Komen's action crossed lines of gender — New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg reacted with a \$250,000 matching grant to Planned Parenthood on Thursday — but the voices of protest from professional women who swell the ranks of Komen's supporters were especially heartening. Defending Planned Parenthood is not a matter of self-interest for middle- and upper-income women. They were standing up for the care of those less fortunate, unfashionable as that concept seems in some political circles during this election year.

And while visions of Komen donors turning away in droves undoubtedly shook the breast cancer charity's leadership, we suspect the rebellion of many local Komen affiliates, including the San Francisco office, were a powerful influence to back off as well.

It remains to be seen whether the Komen organization can recover its good name and reputation among the women it has counted on for support. A political edge rarely is an asset for charities with an apolitical purpose like fighting cancer. If the anger persists, a change in leadership may be necessary.

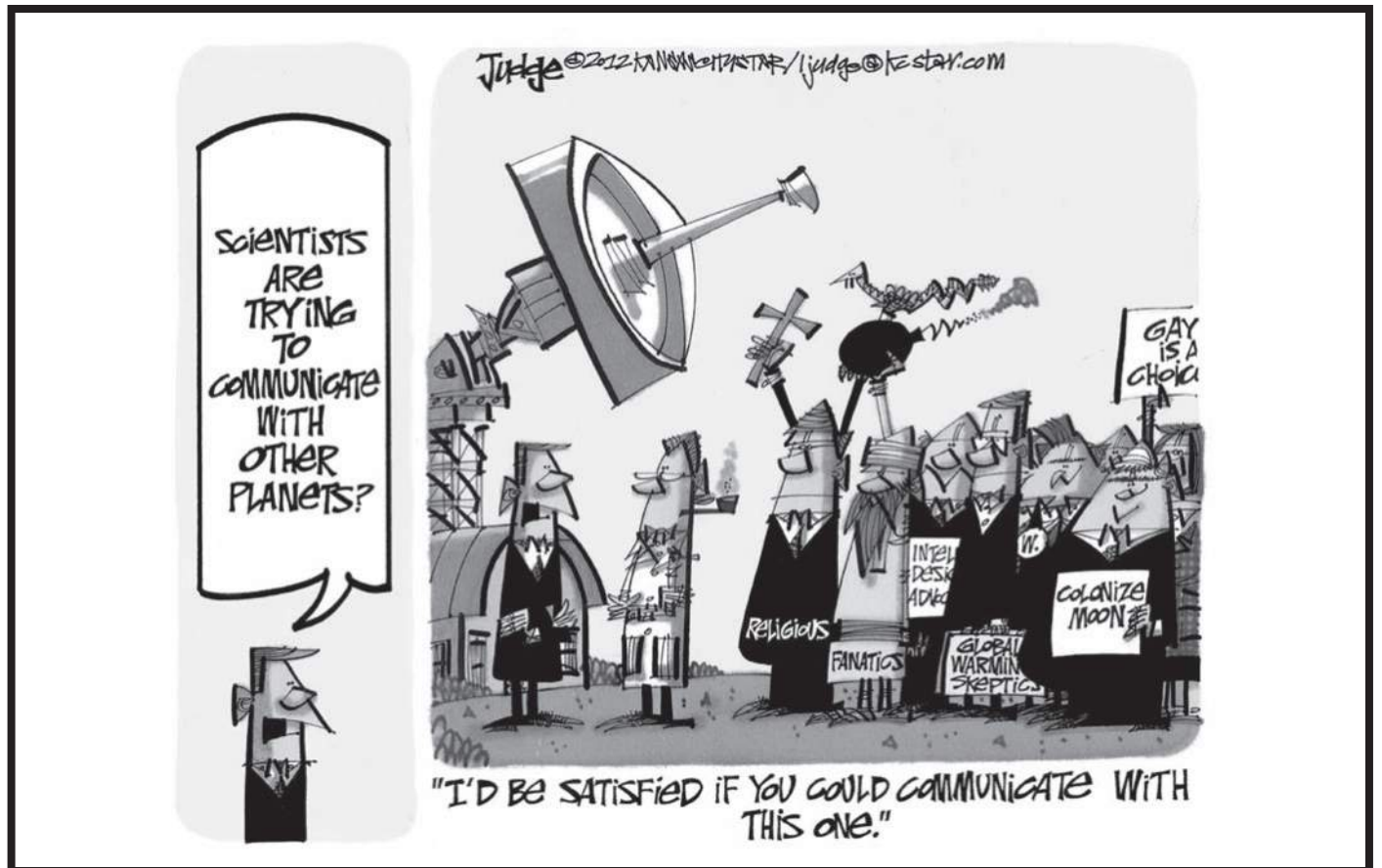
Ironically, Planned Parenthood is most likely to benefit from all this: A spotlight now shines on the fact that, while it does perform abortions, 97 percent of its work is preventive health care for women and men who have no place else to turn.

■ ■ ■ ■

Years from now, students in college-level public-relations classes will be offered the "Susan G. Komen for the Cure fiasco" for analysis. Komen's short-lived decision to cut off grants to Planned Parenthood is a study in how to alienate supporters.

The most troubling thing about Komen is that an organization with longstanding connections to numerous companies, sports organizations and nationwide feel-good events took its sterling brand and trashed it in a matter of days.

A group like Komen only has the quality service it provides and goodwill garnered over the years to encourage donations and support. Its trademark pink is not as bold as before. For the moment, it seems drab and faded.



Insurgents in GOP Land

GOP presidential contender Mitt Romney said that contentious disagreements among candidates on issues "do not divide but prepare us to win" the 2012 presidential election.

There are parallel events in U.S. history where the party in command loses to the other side not so much because they've become lazy and redundant, but they simply ignored the emergence of internal insurgents whose participation is equally critical.

They simply ignored the positive contributions of insurgents as to let them disappear when they exit the front gate. At the end of the day when the final tallies are counted, theirs was one sound defeat, a dollar short and a day late. This is where the hands of real leadership equipped with the ability to listen come into full play. It's vital to get their ducks in order.

I much prefer Newt Gingrich for his fiery and substantive views. Mr. Romney, however, has done equally well in recent debates. Those who have come to know his forte in wealth and jobs creation now begin to see the focused leadership he's held throughout his business and public life. He remains critically sharp in his views and disposition.

Hope he sees the essence of corralling GOP insurgents who can contribute substantially to his presidential goal.

Local GOP landscape

The local GOP insurgency is a bit different in color and hue. It isn't premised on ideological or philosophical differences but more of tweaking the rules of the game to accommodate personal interests over an already seriously ailing party.

It's only the midterm election and some Republicans have refused to drink homogenized milk from their former boss who prefers pasteurized stuff. Once faithful Covenant loyalists aren't worried if the milk is pasteurized or homogenized for as long as they get a cold drink. They are ready to get pallets at a time for their own use.

The discordancy born by GOP leadership would be cannibalized as soon as Republican and Covenant insurgents hit the campaign trail. There may be a gentlemen's agreement to do it clean but I could see it bursting wide open like the volcanic eruption of recent past.

A disastrously bad economy and other divisive issues would make GOP victory woefully difficult to secure. Like I said earlier the GOP needs an economic miracle but such phenomenon isn't anywhere in the horizon either.

Interesting what would be the referendum of governance against Republicans and Covenant parties. Will it be more of the same, half shame or a real shame? Would casino supporters get re-elected after ignoring the decision and will of governance on this matter? Why the obvious dismissive arrogance on an issue we have overwhelmingly shot down twice in recent past? This adolescent behavior seems headed to replicating the total defeat of the GOP in 1979. Well, "Let It Be!"

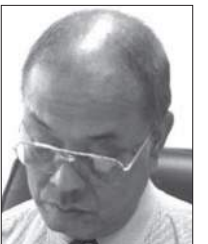
For all the sinking and discouraging tidings everywhere, I am sure governance isn't ready to look itself in the mirror to declare, "Shame on me!"

Guam buildup shifts

Plans for a major military buildup in Guam keeps shifting and spiral-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



ing downwards. As of last week, the U.S. and Japan reportedly agreed to move 4,700 Marines from Okinawa to Guam instead of 8,000 and some 9,000 dependents.

The transfer of Marines and dependents from Okinawa to Guam has been a pillar of the 2006 bilateral accord on the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan where progress on relocating Futenma was made a precondition of the troop's move.

But the U.S. Department of Defense is now considering rotating 4,000 of them through Australia, Subic Bay and perhaps a smaller base in the Philippines and Hawaii. The military has strategic plans that include deployment or redeployment of troops where it sees most fit.

I don't mind the decision to downsize the military buildup on our southern neighbor. At least it lessens kaboom diplomacy to other venues while leaving the NMI at peace.

The NTTU on Saipan

We've had our bouts with military occupation of the islands after the war. The Navy took over and kept Saipan and Tinian closed and shut from the rest of the world. We couldn't even hunt nor visit Magpi (Marpi) and Chacha (Dandan) nor could we freely roam the well-manicured community on Capital Hill. Never got to see these places until the Navy deployed elsewhere in 1961.

The military is notorious for securing prime land. It took beach property between San Jose and Susupe. It built housing and self-contained facilities for its soldiers and dependents.

Capital Hill was strictly for its NTTU operation (an arm of the CIA) where it ran the training of some Chinese soldiers in Marpi and Kagman. But it is also a good organization when help is needed on the islands. It was instrumental in the establishment of public schools, health clinics, hospital and other services where local folks were employed. It saw the need for assimilation and they did it generously too.

For some reason Rota was excluded from the Naval Administration of the islands. But we were shut down from the rest of the world in order to keep the Navy's secret mission intact.

Like any organization, it isn't necessarily adept at understanding the domino effect of programs it begins here. You send local kids to Saipan Intermediate School (up to eighth grade) and upon graduation they had to go on to high school. So our kids headed to GW on Guam aboard ships or military airplanes.

Hopwood Sr. High School was built in the mid-'60s, marking the establishment of the first high school here. Air travel was primarily military planes. Initially, visitors were soldiers on R&R. We were spoiled and learned heavily from it when we became an administrative district of the old Trust Territory government.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Insha'allah

M*awlid an-Nabi*, the birth of the prophet Muhammad, is observed this year on the 4th of February for the Sunnis and the 9th for the Shiites, the difference in dates is from adjusting the lunar calendar to Europe's Gregorian solar reckoning. If curious, a reader might want to Google the difference. There is also biological lineage of *sira*, and the other, ecclesiastical *summa*. It is what separates Iraq and Iran, defines the internecine conflicts within their borders, and those of other Islamic countries.

Three houses of faith emerged from the Abrahamic tradition: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, full of family squabbles.

IMHO, Judaism is rooted in the mysterious YHWH, understood as the supremacy of reality of the "way life is"—not what was or what will be nor what should be. It just IS, embodied and identified with the local iconic Canaanite figures of substance and existence, *El* (the supreme IS), and *Elohim/Adonai* (the sovereign Many as One).

The Jews wanted a king to rule them as a people, and its scripture fundamentally witnesses that having a king indicated a distrust in the sufficiency of YHWH's rule, and the refusal of individuals to decide the course of their own destiny.

Christianity began as a reform movement in the synagogue. Galilean carpenter Joshua Ibn Nazareth was a Jew who confronted the prevailing illusion of His time: that someone in the royal line of David will rescue the Jews from oppression. A people waited for a Messiah to save them.

Joshua or Jesus (Anglicized) had a simple teaching, IMHO. "You are all waiting for a Messiah. Well, I have good news (gospel) for you. You need wait no more. There is no messiah, and I who bring you this truth, am being the Messiah. So, if you want to be well, that is, if you want to be saved, go ahead and pick up your bed, and walk." Needless to say, many did, including this writer.

The Greeks picked up this message, liberated it from the racial confines of the synagogue into the realm of Olympian *Theos* and the Roman Forum's *Deus*—the *Ecclesia*, the household of God. The Greeks and the Copts maintained orthodoxy, the Romans embraced catholicity, and northern Europe promoted transparency. Thus we have a plethora of traditions, denominations, and sects in this communion.

Islam's *Insha'allah* is total surrender to *al'ilah* (the incomprehensible IS), or humility before the truth, which in the desert, is *ruah* the wind, Spirit. Its faith adheres to simple reality (*tauhid*) as one, requires sincerity of intent, purity of heart, and leaves no quarter for falsity or deception. Simplicity of truth prevails, complexity suspect. Something about this simplicity captivated Arabs, Mongols and the Ottoman Empire.

The Jews thrive on the covenant, the Christians on love, and the Muslims in simple charity. They belong to the same household, but the wars of the male of their specie have been the hallmark of the history of humankind in the last 2,500 years.

In my time, an old man in the Vatican opened its windows and doors; the winds of change could not be contained and without apology, it swept through its halls and cathedrals, along with other houses of worship where two or more are gathered. *Ecclesia*, the household of humanity before the Awesome, became *Ecumené*, the temple of the wonder-filled planet Earth itself.

In this planet, there are paths less known to the folks of Europe, but are trodden to earth by more denizens of other climes than those of the children of Abraham. They follow practices we have labeled under the general categories of Taoism, Animism, Tribalism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and the like.

The Prophet from the desert confronted the reality of His time, the struggle between the mirage of illusion, which gives momentary comfort and pleasure, and the truth that is at once awesome and mysterious. He chose the path of the latter, and His following carved out a universe

Letters to the Editor

Here we go again

As we all know this is an election year. The Legislature is up to it's old tricks of trying to pass a bunch of laws just to try to prove to us that they are doing their jobs. Well, the law that they passed on zoning is too much. They have spent thousands of dollars of our tax money to establish a Zoning Office and establish zoning laws. But members of the Legislature seem to think they know better. So they pass a law to wipe out all the work that the Zoning Office has done. They chose to turn their backs on all the input from public hearings and do whatever they want to. There is an old saying that when something smells bad, it is probably bad. The bill they passed has a very bad smell to it. It is just another example of the cronyism that goes on in the Legislature. You all wonder why we are not recovering from this mess that the administration and the Legislature have spent us into. Just ask yourself this question: Would you invest money in a country that cannot pass a simple law without repealing it or having to amend it? When a member

of the Legislature comes on TV and states that they had to pass something but they can always amend it later? Well, if I were the investor I would scratch that country off my list. I have to wonder what favor they owed Rep. Stanley Torres. We all knew that Mr. Torres has a personal problem with the Zoning Office.

There is another reason why we cannot bring in any honest investor and that is the price of utilities. I hate to sound like a know-it-all. But I was working for CUC when we were doing all the expansion in the early '90s. Most of you do not remember that in October 1993 CUC showed a profit for the first time ever. Then the politicians took over. CUC ran about an even level for about three years, then it started downhill again. When the governor ran for election the first time he promised to get rid of the fuel surcharge. Well, here we are six years later and the fuel surcharge is higher than ever. The truth of the matter is that anyone who understands how to run a utility company could have gotten it out of the mess it is in in two to three years. That is why I am working to get CUC turned into a co-op utility company. We have the people right here on the island that know how to run it and run it right. But we have to keep them away from politics.

As I stated at the start, this is an election year. It is time for the so-

service when needed. He does not make excuses; he does not criticize or attack politicians.

I remember a time when the hospital had excellent staffing and services: ortho, ENT, cardiology, pulmonology. What happened? Tell us your spin on that. I have worked in this community since 1998, both at CHC and in the private sector. Without reservation I can say that the overwhelming number of physicians and allied health professionals I have met are incredible people who care deeply about their patients, who commit personally to the lives of the people of the CNMI. Dr. Sullivan is someone you should be grateful to. But he does not need your approval, nor do any of us in this pursuit. Our patients are our neighbors, our friends, and we do our diligence while the politicians and media spinners act out a bad Greek tragedy.

The problems at the hospital are the responsibility of the administration, period. Dr Sullivan and I and the other health care providers who are not locals are not outsiders; we are not parasites. We are here by choice to be part of a community we love. Our kids go to school here. We laugh, cry, bleed all the same. I recommend you use that platform at the *Tribune* to do some good and create a constructive dialogue on the health care crisis, not simply find ways to insult and divide people with your words.

Jim Pitts PA-C, MPAS
Navy Hill, Saipan

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section

from the southern tip of Africa to China's Northeast.

The issue before us is the decision to forsake the ancient prejudices of exclusivity from any of the traditions and begin to create the umbrella big enough to contain the conflicts not only among siblings but also among neighbors.

We mentioned in an earlier column the three perspectives religious studies afford us: that of immanence, transcendence, and transparency.

Immanence insists on authenticity. Is it real? Can one existentially intuit in ones bones the truth? Transcendence requires inclusiveness and comprehensiveness in an image or story, not unlike the circle of the *Taiji* to contain the intense swirl of the yin-yang intact within its fold.

But transparency is the spirit mode of our time. It entails dialogue, the trusting of another eye to reflect in their "mirror" the reality of my being. Psychology is only too clear about the deceptiveness of self-image. Can we trust the transparency of what is true and real when our neighbor raises the mirror from whence we can see our selves? Dialogue is the spirit method of our time. The Hindus call it *Namaste*, "I salute and recognize your being."

The CNMI is heir to all these human inventions, just as it is now in most of the globe. In these small islands, in 2012, the courage to trust the neighbor is our manifest calling. *Insha'allah*.

called silent majority to get some guts and stand up for what they know is right. Either you stand up now or you kiss you island and culture goodbye. I was at a party some time ago. I was watching young children playing. The thought came to me. What kind of a future do these children have? Tonight, take a good look at your children and ask yourself: Are you doing right by them by letting the corruption, cronyism, and nepotism cheat your children out of the right to compete for a future? It is your islands. Let your elected leaders hear you. If you do not, do not cry about it later.

Frederick A. Prosser
As Matusi, Saipan

Natural laws

Mr. John Del Rosario's discourse on "natural rights" is perplexing since he left many voids that cover this subject matter. Man's contradictions with nature have been argued and expressed by scholars in all fields of classificatory sciences, and still today we could not as human beings find that absolute and random common perceptual world that we all can agree with.

This subject has intrigued scholars and novices alike since the time of Aristotle and Plato and after centuries of human development. John Locke's writings on the contract theory of government were a major contributor to the delegates of the last Constitutional Convention before the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

Many will follow new insights on important subjects such as "natural law," but in this particular situation, it would make sense for Mr. Del Rosario to expand his points, and tell the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands that this is the answer to the issue of landownership rights in the CNMI.

Without a scholarly and thoughtful discourse on the subject, I will dismiss Mr. DelRosario's points of view on the subject as petty and insignificant. We would acknowledge his thoughts on this matter, but we certainly could not see all interests without him pointing them out for us to understand. John Locke himself said, "Reading furnishes the mind only with material for knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours." If Mr. DelRosario is a bringer of knowledge for the indigenous people of the Mariana Islands, I for one would be a serious hearer of what he has to say on this. Let us all begin the discussion because this would work both ways in that "natural laws" may once again influence the minds of the folks in Washington, D.C.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

A bad Greek tragedy

Mr. DelRosario: I do not know you but you have decided to take a clear stand on the interpretation of the state of health care here. Most of us read the paper and we see the usual dialogue, keep quiet, and mind our business. Your comments about physicians and the problems with CHC require a reply.

First I would recommend that you read a good book on public health by John Farmer, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*. It is not a textbook but a visceral look at human suffering and a simple, effective approach to solutions.






Dr. Sullivan is a physician who chose to come here to work for two years on a national health service commitment. He gets nothing from the CNMI for that commitment. I have no idea what your knowledge of the health care industry is; from your writings it is obvious you know little. To recruit any physician to any location here or in the U.S., it is standard for relocation to be provided, not a perk. In fact, most physicians are paid to relocate, and given bonus/productivity rewards.

I am a community-based provider. As such I work with Dr. Sullivan when patients need referral and admission. He is tireless, exceptionally dedicated. He is skilled beyond his years. I know for a fact that my patients and his—you know, the ones in the villages—would tell you that if you asked them. Ask your source how many times he has worked overtime, escorted patients on medical referral, or covered a

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79

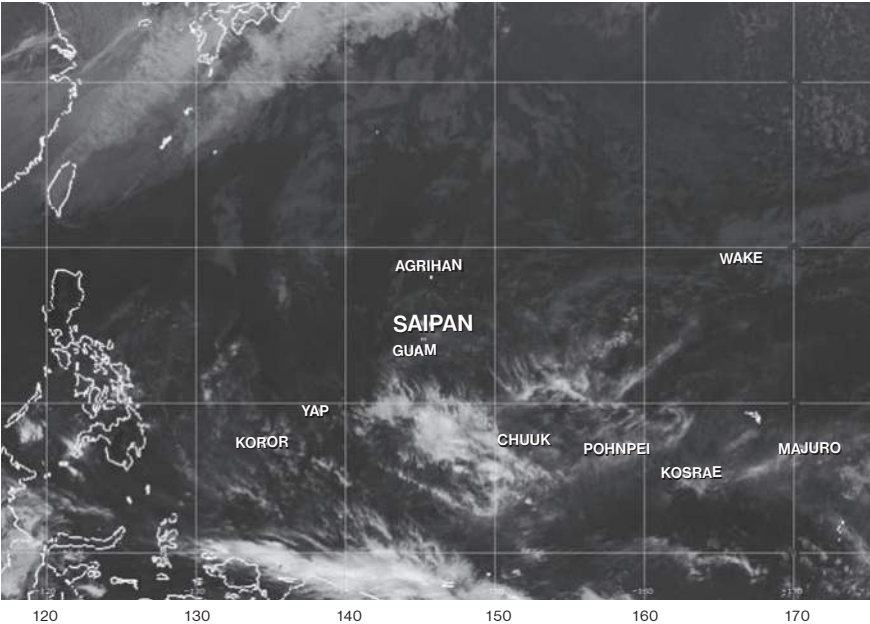
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 39 ▼ 15
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 53
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 65
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 36 ▼ 27
Los Angeles	Rain	▲ 58 ▼ 48
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 81 ▼ 67
New York	Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 33
Osaka	Windy	▲ 39 ▼ 33
Paris	Sunny	▲ 29 ▼ 19
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 25
Rome	Snow	▲ 51 ▼ 32
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Rain	▲ 56 ▼ 47
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 28 ▼ 19
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 32
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 39

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:37 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
7:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from 24N180E across Wake Island to end east of Saipan near 15N154E. Cloudiness and widely scattered showers are along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough between Chuuk and Yap extends from 10N144E to 1N147E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are within 150 miles of a line from 10N144E to 5N152E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers in an area from Kosrae across the Marshall Islands to beyond the date line between 3N and 9N east of 164E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:44 AM	6:18 PM
Friday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:38 PM	6:34 AM
Thursday	7:35 PM	7:19 AM
Friday	8:32 PM	8:03 AM
Saturday	9:30 PM	8:48 AM
Sunday	10:28 PM	9:34 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN** Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 200	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Corporate profits aren't what they seem

NEW YORK (AP)—Is the great profit engine of corporate America running out of steam?

While other parts of the economy struggled the past two years, large companies managed to rack up higher profits quarter after quarter. Now reality is catching up with big business.

As companies close their books on the final three months of last year, the big ones that make up the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index appear likely to earn about \$230 billion. That would be \$12.6 billion more than a year earlier.

But the increase, 5.8 percent, is less than half the speed at which quarterly profits grew the first nine months of 2011. In the average quarter since the beginning of 2010, earnings have grown five times as fast.

Analysts expect profit growth to accelerate later this year. But so far, almost all the growth comes from two companies, one of them among America's most favorite,



In this March 25, 2011 file photo, customers wait outside the Apple store in Munich before the start of sales of the iPad2. While the economy has struggled to recover over the past two years, big U.S. companies have not only generated profits but grown them, quarter after quarter.

the other among its most hated—Apple and the bailed-out insurance company AIG.

Take away those two companies and profits for the remaining

498 are expected to grow a measly 1.1 percent, according to FactSet, a provider of financial data.

The immediate future looks about the same. For this quarter,

which ends March 31, profits for the S&P 500 are expected to be up about 1 percent from the year before. And that's with Apple and AIG thrown in.

"Were the economy to sustain a shock, this makes us more vulnerable," says Barry Knapp, chief U.S. stock strategist at Barclays Capital. In a report Thursday highlighting "unusually weak" results so far, Goldman Sachs strategist David Kostin noted that stock analysts have been cutting their estimates for what S&P companies will make for all of 2012.

His projection has profits rising 3 percent this year versus 2011, and it has stocks in the S&P 500 no higher than they were when the year started. That would reverse a strong 6.9 percent rise so far this year.

The darkening profit picture comes at the wrong time for the economy, which is finally gaining momentum. The country added an unexpectedly robust 243,000 jobs last month, and unemployment has fallen to 8.3 percent, the lowest in three years.

Rising profits have helped the country heal from the Great Recession. They have allowed companies to hire, invest in equipment and software and raise stock dividends. The danger is that as profit growth ebbs, so will the boost to the economy.

The reasons for the slowdown are myriad:

■ Among the almost 300 companies in the S&P that have reported profits so far, some seem to have run out of ways to cut costs, and are making less profit from each sale, a first in the recovery. To help lift its drooping profit margins, for instance, Colgate-Palmolive said last week that it was raising prices in North America for the first time in two years. Profit fell 5 percent last quarter.

■ Other companies point the finger overseas. Dow Chemical, the nation's largest chemical maker, blamed "considerable weakness" in debt-mired Europe for its profit last quarter of 25 cents per share, before a one-time charge. That was less than expected. 3M, which makes Scotch tape and Post-It notes, is worried about slower growth in emerging markets like China, and says that helps explain its tiny 3 percent profit growth last quarter.

■ Still others point to the strengthening U.S. dollar, which means profits that companies collect in foreign currencies like the euro translate into fewer dollars when they're brought home. In cutting profit forecasts for 2012, Procter & Gamble and Pfizer both cited the stronger dollar. Their stocks have dropped this year.

Deeper Iran sanctions; US targets its central bank

WASHINGTON (AP)—Targeting Iran's economy, the U.S. ordered tough new penalties Monday to further pinch the country's financial system and encourage Israel to give sanctions more time before any military action against Iran's nuclear program.

The new, stricter sanctions, authorized in legislation that President Barack Obama signed in December, will be enforced under an order he signed only now. They give U.S. banks new powers to freeze assets linked to the Iranian government and close loopholes that officials say Iran has used to move money

despite earlier restrictions imposed by the U.S. and Europe.

The action against the Central Bank of Iran is more significant for its timing than its immediate effect. It comes as the United States and its allies are arguing that tough sanctions can still persuade Iran to back off what the West contends is a drive to build a nuclear bomb.

The U.S. and Europe want to deprive Iran of the oil income it needs to run its government and pay for the nuclear program. But many experts believe Iran will be able to find other buyers outside Europe.

The European Union an-

nounced last month it would ban the import of Iranian crude oil starting in July. The U.S. doesn't buy Iranian oil, but last month it placed sanctions on Iran's banks to make it harder for the nation to sell crude. The U.S., however, has delayed implementing those sanctions for at least six months because it is worried about sending oil prices higher at a time when the world economy is struggling. Iran exports about 3 percent of the world's oil.

The faster and more painfully sanctions can be seen to work, the better the case to shelve any plan by Israel to bomb Iran, a

pre-emptory move that could ignite a new Mideast war. Taking this initial step against the Central Bank, the first time the U.S. has directly gone after that major institution, is one way the Obama administration can show momentum now. Israel, meanwhile, has been increasingly open about its worry that Iran could be on the brink of a bomb by this summer and that this spring offers the last window to destroy bomb-related facilities. Many Israeli officials believe that sanctions only give time for Iran to move its nuclear program underground, out of reach of Israeli military strikes.

Tax reform in this election year: It's not likely

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tax reform sounds like a good idea to lots of people, but where to start? Eliminate the popular deduction for home mortgages? End the write-off for charitable contributions? How about expanding the Social Security payroll tax?

Not likely.

Politicians of all stripes in this presidential election year are clamoring for simplifying the tax code and closing loopholes. But that would mean Americans would lose some of their prized deductions.

Not that Congress actually

is likely to end tax breaks for home loans or religious and charitable contributions anytime soon. President Barack Obama and his chief Republican challengers—Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich—certainly aren't advocating that.

In fact, recommendations to trim the mortgage deduction made in 2005 by a tax-overhaul panel convened by then President George W. Bush and again in 2010 by a deficit-reduction committee set up by Obama were ignored by both those presidents.

Overhauling the complex U.S. tax code could mean that for everyone who would pay less someone else would pay more. And every existing provision in the code has its advocates.

"Tax reform is ferociously difficult. If you tackle it straight up, the likelihood of success is rather small," said Henry Aaron, a senior fellow in economic studies at the Brookings Institution. "Whenever you try to take money away from somebody, they will fight harder to keep it than will

those who stand to gain."

And if deficit reduction is also a goal, it makes the job even harder.

Most recently, a bipartisan deficit-reduction congressional "supercommittee" failed to meet a Thanksgiving 2011 deadline and had to disband when it could not find common ground on tax changes.

None of the major tax overhaul proposals now on the table seems likely to be enacted given the current political rancor in Washington.

Of course, a lot could depend on the outcome of the November elections.

Greece caves in on civil service firings

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greece's coalition government caved in to demands to cut civil service jobs, announcing 15,000 positions would go this year, amid mounting international pressure to agree on austerity measures needed to secure major new debt agreements.

The announcement Monday signals a shift in Greece's policy, as state jobs have so far been protected during the country's acute financial crisis, which started about two years ago. Public Sector Reform Minister Dimitris Reppas said the job cuts would be carried out under a new law that allows such firings.

Unions have called a 24-hour general strike for Tuesday, in response to the new austerity measures, while about 4,000 protesters braved torrential rain late Monday to join protest rallies organized in central Athens by left-wing opposition parties.

Greece is racing to push through the painful reforms—which have yet to be agreed to by Greece's coalition partners—to clinch a euro130 bil-

lion (\$170 billion) bailout deal from its European partners and the International Monetary Fund and avoid a March default on its bond repayments.

Debt-ridden Greece has been kept solvent since May 2010 by payments from a euro110 billion (\$145 billion) international rescue loan package. When it became clear the money would not be enough, a second bailout was decided last October.

As well as the austerity measures, the bailout also depends on separate talks with banks and other private bondholders to forgive euro100 billion (\$131.6 billion) in Greek debt. The private investors have been locked in negotiations over swapping their current debt for a cash payment and new bonds worth 50 percent less than the original face value, longer repayment terms and a cut in the interest rate to be paid on the bonds. Greek government officials say they expect private investors to take an overall cut of up to 70 percent on the value of their bonds.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,845.10
-17.10
-0.13%

S&P
1,344.33
-0.57
-0.04%

NASDAQ
2,901.99
-3.67
-0.13%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9292
British Pound	0.6346
Canadian Dollar	0.9997
Chinese Yuan	6.3236
Euro	0.7655

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7771	Philippine Peso	42.6981
Indian Rupee	49.0923	Singapore Dollar	1.2506
Indonesian Rupiah	9,019.06	South Korean Won	1,122.01
Japanese Yen	76.9620	Swiss Franc	0.9235
Malaysian Ringgit	3.0204	Taiwan Dollar	29.6881
New Zealand Dollar	1.2023	Thailand Baht	31.0382

Nation

Autopsies: Powell boys suffered 'chop injuries'

GRAHAM, Wash. (AP)—Josh Powell's boys were coming for a visit, and he had preparations to make. He boxed up their books and toys and took them to a charity. He carried heavy cans of gasoline inside his house and set aside a hatchet.

He thought about what to write in the final emails he'd send out: where people could find his financial accounts, how they could shut off his utilities. He didn't mention his wife, Susan Powell, missing for the past two years.

When the boys finally arrived in a car driven by a social worker Sunday, everything was ready to go. They ran inside to see him. He locked the door before the social worker could reach it. She could smell the gas, which by now was splashed throughout the home. She called for help. The flames rose.

As authorities continued searching through the charred rubble of the home Monday, they released new details about what they described as Powell's deliberation in killing himself and his children, who had been removed from his care—a horrifying climax to a long, bizarre saga. They found the two 5-gallon gas



In this undated photo provided by Chuck and Judy Cox, Chuck Cox plays with his grandsons, Charlie, right, and Braden, left. Charlie and Braden were killed along with their father, Josh Powell, on Sunday in what police said was an intentional fire set by Powell. Chuck Cox is the father of Powell's wife, Susan, who has been missing since 2009.

cans and a hatchet inside.

"This was definitely a deliberate, planned-out event," said Pierce County Sheriff's Detective Ed Troyer.

Smoke inhalation was the primary cause of death for Josh Powell and his two young sons, Pierce County Medical Exam-

iner's Office investigator Melissa Baker said Monday evening. But the boys also suffered "chop injuries" that contributed to their deaths—7-year-old Charles was struck on his neck and 5-year-old Braden had injuries to both his head and neck, Baker said.

Troyer said investigators found a hatchet that they believe was used on the boys.

"We recovered a hatchet—a small ax," he said. "It was right there with them (the bodies)."

The Utah police chief heading the investigation into Susan Powell's disappearance, Buzz

Nielsen of the West Valley City Police Department, flew to Washington state Monday and vowed that the case will remain open.

Detectives hope to interview the father of Josh Powell, Steve Powell, who remains in jail on child pornography and voyeurism charges, Nielsen said. He identified Steve Powell as a "person of interest" in the disappearance but then said no arrest was imminent: "He's not in our sights."

Josh Powell had long been identified as a person of interest in his wife's disappearance, and last week a judge denied another request for his boys to be returned to him.

Powell claimed that the night his wife vanished in December 2009, he took the boys on a midnight camping trip in freezing temperatures—a story neither

her parents nor police believe.

Asked why Josh Powell had never been arrested, Nielsen said: "In a criminal case of this nature, you've got one shot. You've got to make sure everything is done right." He said investigators were making progress and had hoped to make an arrest within the year, but declined to discuss what evidence they might have had against Josh Powell.

If Powell did know what happened to his wife, he appears to have kept that secret when he died.

Troyer said that minutes before the fire, Powell sent emails to several people saying, "I'm sorry. Goodbye." To others, including his cousins and pastor, he sent longer emails, with instructions such as where to find his money and how to shut off his utilities.

Despite ceremony, NY fort's skeletons not buried

LAKE GEORGE, N.Y. (AP)—For decades, tourists visiting this popular Adirondack village could gape at the skeletons of soldiers from nearby French and Indian War sites. Then in 1993, a somber reburial ceremony was held to finally put the remains to rest.

Only that never happened.

Almost all of the 18th-century skeletons were never buried. Instead, the collection of remains eventually was taken to Arizona and Canada for study and has yet to be returned for reburial. In this small upstate New York town that was the real-life setting for the historical events depicted in "The Last of the Mohicans," people had no idea.

"Most of them aren't there?" asked Robert Blais, mayor of Lake George since 1971, who learned about the decision from The Associated Press.

The AP spoke to archaeologists who have dug at the site, fort officials and the anthropologists who have the remains to confirm that the bulk of the skeleton collection is not at the fort.

Now, the people behind the decision are publicly discussing for the first time how such important artifacts left

Lake George, and why they haven't been returned after nearly two decades.

"You're reaching the time when they should come home," said David Starbuck, a New York archaeologist who has written about the history behind Fort William Henry's skeleton collection.

On Memorial Day weekend in 1993, a well-publicized reburial ceremony was held to honor the redcoats and American provincial soldiers whose remains were being reinterred in the cemetery at the fort, a full-scale reconstruction of the outpost the British built here at the outbreak of war in 1755. The original fort was the real-life setting of the historical events in James Fenimore Cooper's classic, "The Last of the Mohicans."

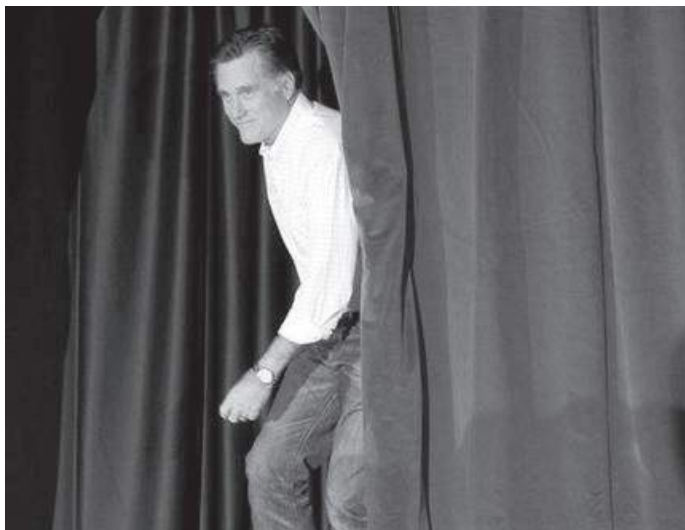
But what fort officials didn't bother to tell the dozens of history buffs, tourists, and local, British and Native American dignitaries at the ceremony was that only three of 15 mostly complete skeletons were actually reburied. The others were still being analyzed by two anthropologists. The fort's owners decided to go ahead with the ceremony anyway.

Romney works to fend off Santorum challenge

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (AP)—Sensing a possible threat, Mitt Romney criticized Rick Santorum's time in the Senate as "not effective" because of his past support for spending on pork-barrel projects as he worked to fend off an unexpected challenge in the next states to vote.

Santorum countered that Romney, the front-runner in the GOP presidential race, "should not be our nominee" because he was "dead wrong on the most important issue of the day" when, as governor, he signed a health care overhaul into law in Massachusetts.

The two sparred from afar one day before Republicans in Colorado and Minnesota hold nominating caucuses, the latest contests in what's become almost a plodding race for the GOP nomination compared to the rapid-fire campaign of last month. Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul also are competing but neither was expected to have a breakout per-



Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney ducks out onto stage to speak at a campaign rally in Grand Junction, Colo., Monday, Feb. 6, 2012.

formance in either state.

Romney, who won both states four years ago, hopes to extend his winning streak though advisers acknowledged that a first-place finish would be more likely to come by in Colorado than in Minnesota. The

Republican Party in Minnesota has become more conservative in recent years and Santorum's strong conservative positions on social issues could resonate with the state's strong contingent of evangelical voters.

Santorum, a Catholic, has

a strong anti-abortion record and consistently focuses on the issue. Romney, who once supported abortion rights, has struggled to win over those voters. But in a sign that he's trying to do just that, Romney's campaign on Monday rolled out a petition focusing on religious liberty. The move was intended to challenge a recent Obama administration decision to require hospitals to distribute free birth control, a policy at odds with the religious teachings followed at many Catholic health care facilities.

Clearly mindful of the shift in Minnesota, Santorum has been working that state and conservative areas of Colorado aggressively in the past two weeks while Romney campaigned in Florida and Nevada and scored back-to-back victories. It was clear Monday that Santorum saw an opportunity to rise in the GOP race.

ACROSS THE NATION

Homeless killings suspect faces new murder charges

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—A former Marine already accused of killing four homeless men was charged Monday with two new counts of murder in the stabbing deaths of his high school friend's mother and older brother. Itzcoatl Ocampo,

23, was charged in the killing of 53-year-old Raquel Estrada and her son, 34-year-old Juan Herrera, in the family's rented home on a quiet Yorba Linda cul-de-sac in October. Charges were dropped against Estrada's son Eder Herrera, a former schoolmate of Ocampo, who was freed after more than three months in jail.

2nd wave of evictions is sweeping away Occupiers

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—A tent city that's among the longest-lived Occupy protest encampments is coming down as part of a new wave of eviction orders against demonstrators aligned with the movement in communities including Miami, Wash-

ington and Pittsburgh. Occupy Maine demonstrators removed several large tents over the weekend, and the city on Monday gave them additional time to remove the rest. Demonstrators who established the encampment just two weeks after the Occupy Wall Street encampment set up shop in New York City vowed to continue their work to call attention to corporate

excess and economic inequality.

Marine hazing trial delayed after charges expanded

KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii (AP)—The court martial for a Marine sergeant accused of hazing a fellow Marine who committed suicide in Afghanistan was delayed Monday after the prosecution

asked to expand the details of the charges. Military judge Col. Michael Richardson told prosecutors to provide Sgt. Benjamin Johns' defense with specifics of the new charge details. Jury selection is expected to begin Tuesday. Johns has been charged with wrongfully humiliating and demeaning Lance Cpl. Harry Lew, who killed himself on April 3.

Asia

Death toll in 6.9 Philippines quake rises to 15



Residents rush to higher grounds following tsunami rumors due to a magnitude 6.9 earthquake which hit the island province of Cebu and other central Philippine provinces Monday, Feb. 6, 2012.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Rescuers digging for survivors among dozens of people buried by earthquake-triggered landslides on a central Philippine island have found only bodies. The death toll climbed to 15 on Tuesday, and at least 73 people were still missing.

Monday's 6.9-magnitude earthquake also collapsed bridges and damaged roads on Negros Island, forcing soldiers and firefighters to hike mountains to reach remote villages. Most of the confirmed deaths were in Planas village, a part of

Guihulngan town where some 30 houses were buried under concrete debris.

Guihulngan Mayor Ernesto Reyes said crews were using backhoes to try to rescue people, but he added that at the rate deaths were being reported, the town may run out of coffins.

The damage may be worse than officials realized because the quake cut off communications to some villages, Reyes said.

"We have no water and power because electric posts were toppled," he told The Associated

Press by phone. "Many of our roads were damaged, including bridges, and stores are closed. We're isolated."

Another hard-hit area was the mountain village of Solongon in La Libertad town, where an unknown number of people were trapped under some 100 houses.

President Benigno Aquino III ordered air force helicopters and navy and coast guard vessels to come to aid of rescuers, some of whom were digging with picks and shovels to look for survivors.

Workers were clearing and

fixing and bridges leading up from the coast to mountains so heavy equipment, food and medicine could flow to the worst-hit villages.

Monday's quake was caused by movement in an undersea fault 44 miles (72 kilometers) north of Dumaguete, capital of Negros Oriental province, and about 400 miles (650 kilometers) southeast of the nation's capital, Manila. It hit at a depth of 29 miles (46 kilometers).

Negros Oriental police chief Senior Superintendent Edward Carranza said at least 73 people remained missing in the province.

The casualties could top a 2004 quake on Mindoro Island, south of Manila, where 78 people died, about half of them in a quake-triggered tsunami. A local tsunami alert was issued fol-

lowing Monday's temblor but was soon canceled.

The Philippines is in the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where earthquakes and volcanic activity are common. The damage and casualties are compounded by shoddy construction in the impoverished nation. A 7.7-magnitude quake killed nearly 2,000 people in northern Luzon in 1990.

Mayor Reyes said that 13 residents died and at least 29 remained missing in the landslide in Planas, where an army platoon began digging in a scramble to find survivors. A 50-man team of veteran rescuers from nearby Cebu province was en route, along with firefighters deployed by the provincial government.

A new crisis unraveled when the landslide in Planas clogged

a mountain river, threatening about four villages downstream. If the river swells or the landslide gives way, the accumulated water may sweep away houses along the banks, Reyes said. Residents were warned to move away.

Lloyd Malay, a 56-year-old government forest ranger in Guihulngan, mourned the death of his friend, a carpenter, who was pinned to death in the house where Malay used to live.

"It's a tragedy I can't do anything about," Malay said as he stood before the ruins. "We have to start all over again."

The road running through his community had a web of ugly cracks. Many of his neighbors managed to escape by fleeing toward the mountain and elsewhere when the ground started to shake.

Suu Kyi hits the campaign trail in Myanmar

PATHEIN, Myanmar (AP)—Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi hit the campaign trail Tuesday as an official candidate for upcoming elections, traveling to the Irrawaddy delta for the first time in two decades.

Cheering crowds greeted Suu Kyi's convoy at every major town and city along her four-hour drive south from Yangon to an area that was devastated by Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

Supporters waved bouquets of roses and yelled, "We Love Mother Suu!" as the 66-year-old pro-democracy advocate drove past, sometimes rising from her car's sun roof to greet supporters with a smile.

Suu Kyi's return to politics is another test of the reforms of the new nominally civilian government that took power last year after decades of military control. Her latest trip came a day after the Election Commission

formally accepted her candidacy for an April parliamentary by-election.

Suu Kyi last visited the Irrawaddy region during a campaign tour in 1989, when soldiers in the town of Danuphyu briefly pointed their rifles at her. It was one of several dramatic confrontations with the ruling military junta ahead of 1990 elections, which Suu Kyi's party won but the junta refused to recognize.

The upcoming by-election is being held to fill 48 parliamentary seats vacated by lawmakers who were appointed to the Cabinet or other posts.

Suu Kyi is running for a seat representing Kawhmu, a poor district south of Yangon, but has embarked on a national campaign to lobby support for other members of her opposition National League for Democracy party.

The new government's rapid reforms have surprised even

some of the country's toughest critics. It has released hundreds of political prisoners, signed cease-fire deals with ethnic rebels, increased media freedoms and eased censorship laws.

Myanmar's government hopes the changes will prompt the lifting of economic sanctions imposed under the junta's rule. Western governments and the United Nations have said they will review the sanctions only after gauging whether the April polls are carried out freely and fairly.

On Monday, Washington eased one of its many sanctions as a reward for the country's progress.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton signed a waiver that should make it easier for Myanmar to secure help from the World Bank and other international financial institutions by lifting U.S. opposition to them conducting assessments.

China stresses need to keep Tibet stable

BEIJING (AP)—China on Monday warned government officials in Tibet that failing to maintain stability could result in job loss or criminal prosecution, the latest sign of heightened ethnic tensions in the remote Himalayan region.

The warning comes four years after deadly riots erupted in Tibet's capital, Lhasa, and as China enters a politically sensitive period with the top leaders of the ruling Communist Party changing by the end of the year.

There has also been a recent wave of unrest in ethnic Tibetan areas of Sichuan, a province adjoining Tibet, with more than a dozen monks and nuns setting themselves on fire over the last year and clashes erupting between Tibetans and security forces in recent weeks.

Monday's announcement on the official website of the Tibetan regional government said two cases of dereliction of duty had recently been reported and that such cases were to be handled

harshly. It said authorities who mishandle emergency situations could lose their jobs or face criminal charges.

The announcement said "those responsible for problems in stability maintenance because they neglect their posts, act irresponsibly, abuse power or fail to carry out their duties ... will all be removed from their positions on the spot no matter who they are or what level they are at."

It said such cases could also be handed over to judicial authorities for criminal prosecution. It gave no details about the two alleged cases of dereliction of duty.

China says Tibet has been under its rule for centuries, but many Tibetans say the region was functionally independent for most of that time.

Over the weekend, an overseas rights group reported that three Tibetans in Sichuan's Seda county set themselves on fire Friday. If confirmed, the incidents would bring to at least 19 the number of

monks, nuns and lay Tibetans believed to have set themselves on fire over the past year. Most have chanted for Tibetan freedom and the return of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled to India amid an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.

Chinese media have denied the latest claims that three Tibetans set themselves on fire. Western reporters trying to visit that part of Sichuan in the last several weeks have been turned away by security forces.

The unrest is the worst since 2008, when deadly rioting in Lhasa spread to Tibetan areas in adjoining provinces. China responded by flooding the area with troops and closing Tibetan regions entirely to foreigners for about a year. Special permission is still required for non-Chinese visitors to Tibet, and the Himalayan region remains closed off entirely for the weeks surrounding the March 14 anniversary of the riots that left 22 people dead.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Death toll in Pakistan factory collapse up to 18

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A rescue official says the death toll from a factory that collapsed in eastern Pakistan has risen to 18. The factory, which manufactured medicine, caved in Monday in the city of Lahore after several gas cylinders inside exploded. Rescue official Asad Ahmad said Tuesday that workers have pulled 13 people out of the rubble alive. Around 30 people are still believed to be under the debris.

China: Body of missing worker recovered in Sudan

BEIJING (AP)—The body of a Chinese worker who went missing during a rebel attack

on a work site in Sudan has been found, state media reported Tuesday. The official Xinhua News Agency said China was told of the recovery by Sudanese officials in South Kordofan. The man went missing Jan. 28 when a group belonging to the Sudan People's Liberation Army attacked 47 Chinese workers at a road construction site. Seventeen others managed to escape and 29 were taken hostage. Xinhua quoted Sudanese media as saying the 29 are expected to be released in the next several days, following mediation by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Maldives soldiers fire rubber bullets at police

MALE, Maldives (AP)—Maldives soldiers on Tuesday fired rubber bullets and clashed with police officers who were defying a presidential order to end a protest against what they perceive as illegal orders by authorities. Hundreds of police started demonstrating early Tuesday in the capital, Male, after officials ordered them to withdraw protection for government and opposition supporters protesting close to each other. The withdrawal resulted in a clash that injured at least three people. President Mohamed Nasheed later visited the police and urged them to end the protest, but they refused and instead chanted for his resignation. Reporters saw soldiers firing rubber bullets, but an official from the president's office denied that.

World

US closes Syrian embassy as diplomacy collapses

BEIRUT (AP)—The U.S. closed its embassy in Syria and Britain recalled its ambassador to Damascus on Monday in a new Western push to get President Bashar Assad to leave power and halt the murderous grind in Syria—now among the deadliest conflicts of the Arab Spring.

Although the diplomatic effort was stymied at the U.N. by vetoes from Russia and China, the moves by the U.S. and Britain were a clear message that Western powers see no point in engaging with Assad and now will seek to bolster Syria's opposition.

"This is a doomed regime as well as a murdering regime," British Foreign Secretary William Hague told lawmakers as he recalled his country's ambassador from Syria. "There is no way it can recover its credibility internationally."

President Barack Obama said the Syrian leader's departure is only a matter of time.

"We have been relentless in sending a message that it is time for Assad to go," Obama said during an interview with NBC. "This is not going to be a matter of if, it's going to be a matter of when."

The most serious violence Monday was reported in Homs, where Syrian government forces, using tanks and machine guns, shelled a makeshift medical clinic and residential areas on the third day of a relentless assault, killing a reported 40 people, activists said. More than a dozen others were reported killed elsewhere.

Those deaths followed a regime onslaught in Homs that began Saturday, the same day Syria's allies in Russia and China vetoed a Western- and Arab-backed resolution aimed at trying to end the crackdown on dissent. Some 200 people died, the highest death toll reported for a single day in the uprising, according to several activist groups.

Even as the U.S. steps up pressure on Assad to halt the violence and relinquish power, Obama said a negotiated solution was possible, without recourse to outside military intervention.

Later, however, White House spokesman Jay Carney said the administration was taking "no options off the table."

In a signal that the window for diplomatic efforts may at some point close, Carney said: "We need to act to allow a peaceful political transition to go forward before the regime's escalating violence puts a political solution out of reach."

U.S. Ambassador Robert Ford and 17 other U.S. officials left Syria on Monday, arriving in Amman, Jordan, several hours later. Ford was to travel on to Paris to spend time with his wife, the State Department said.

As part of what was clearly



AP
In this Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008 file photo, a view of the US embassy in Damascus, two days after the embassy notified its community in Syria that it could close its door for public after a US military raid on a Syrian village eastern Syria which killed eight people.

a concerted Western effort, the Italian Foreign Ministry said it had also summoned Syria's ambassador in Rome to express "the strongest condemnation ... over the unacceptable acts of violence perpetrated by the regime of Damascus against the civilian population."

More than 5,400 people have been killed in Syria since the uprising began in March, the U.N. said early last month. Hundreds more are believed to have been killed since then, but the U.N. says the chaos in the country has made it impossible to cross-check the figures.

Syria has blocked access to trouble spots and prevented independent reporting, making it nearly impossible to verify accounts from either side. The Assad regime says terrorists acting out a foreign conspiracy to destabilize the country are behind the uprising, not people seeking to transform the authoritarian regime.

There are fears that international intervention, akin to the NATO airstrikes that helped topple Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, could make the already combustible conflict in Syria even worse.

Syria is a highly unpredictable country, in part because of its web of allegiances to powerful forces, including Lebanon's Hezbollah and close ally Iran.

The country also has multiple sectarian divisions, which the uprising has laid bare. Most of Syria's 22 million people are Sunni Muslim, but Assad and the

ruling elite belong to the minority Alawite sect—something that has bred seething resentments.

The violence has reinforced opposition fears that Assad will unleash even greater firepower to crush dissent now that protection from China and Russia against any U.N.-sanctioned action appears assured.

After the U.N. veto, the commander of the rebel Free Syrian Army, Col. Riad al-Asaad, said "there is no other road" except military action to topple Assad.

With diplomacy at an impasse, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called for "friends of democratic Syria" to unite and rally against Assad's regime, previewing the possible formation of a group of like-minded nations to coordinate assistance to the Syrian opposition.

Expanding on the idea Monday, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the U.S. would seek to work outside the U.N. to "strengthen and deepen and broaden the international community pressure on Assad, ... to work with as many countries as we can to increase both regional sanctions and unilateral national sanctions on the Assad regime."

The contact group is likely to be similar, but not identical, to the one established last year for Libya, which oversaw the international help for Gadhafi's opponents. It also coordinated NATO military operations to protect Libyan civilians, something that is not envisioned in Syria.

Syria has seen one of the

bloodiest crackdowns since the wave of Arab uprisings began more than a year ago. Deaths in Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen have numbered in the hundreds. Libya's toll is unknown and likely higher than Syria's, but the conflict differed there: Early on, it became an outright civil war between two armed sides.

Syria, in contrast, has developed into a murderous grind—although many fear it is swiftly developing into a civil war.

Though internationally isolated, Assad appears to have a firm grip on power with the loyalty of most of the armed forces, which have moved from city to city to put down uprisings. In each place, however, protests have resumed, and now army defectors and others are taking up arms to fight back, adding to the bloodshed.

Ford arrived in Damascus just over a year ago as the first American ambassador to Syria

since the Bush administration broke ties over Syria's alleged role in the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The Obama administration had hoped to persuade Syria to change its often anti-American policies regarding Israel, Lebanon and Iraq, and to drop its support for extremist groups. Syria is designated a "state sponsor of terrorism" by the State Department.

Palestinians take step toward unity

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—After months of wavering, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas took a decisive step Monday toward reconciliation with the Islamic militant group Hamas, a move Israel promptly warned would close the door to any future peace talks.

In a deal brokered by Qatar, Abbas will head an interim unity government to prepare for general elections in the Palestinian territories in the coming months. The agreement appeared to bring reconciliation—key to any statehood ambitions—within reach for the first time since the two sides set up rival Palestinian governments in the West Bank and Gaza in 2007.

Monday's deal, signed in the Qatari capital of Doha by Abbas and Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal, put an end to recent efforts by the international community to revive long-stalled negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on the terms of Palestinian statehood. Abbas appears to have concluded that he has a better chance of repairing relations

with Hamas, shunned by the West as a terror group, than reaching an agreement with Israel's hardline prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Netanyahu quickly condemned the Doha deal. "It's either peace with Hamas or peace with Israel. You can't have them both," he said in a warning to Abbas, who has enjoyed broad international support.

In moving closer to Hamas, Abbas risks losing some of that backing and hundreds of millions of dollars a year in aid.

Qatar, awash with cash from vast oil and gas reserves, assured the Palestinians that it would help limit any political and financial damages, according to Palestinian officials close to the talks.

Whether the Palestinian Authority loses any of the roughly \$1 billion in foreign aid it received each year may partly depend on the interim government's political platform and Hamas' willingness to stay in the background.

The new government is to be made up of politically independent experts, according

to the Doha agreement. If headed by Abbas, devoid of Hamas members and run according to his political principles, it could try to make a case to be accepted by the West. Abbas aides said they were optimistic they could win international recognition.

The Quartet of international Mideast mediators—the U.S., the U.N., the European Union and Russia—has said it would deal with any Palestinian government that renounces violence, recognizes Israel and supports a negotiated peace deal. Abbas has embraced these principles, while Hamas rejects them.

Top Abbas aides Nabil Shaath and Azzam al-Ahmed said they are confident the new government will be based on the Quartet principles. In any case, they said, the interim government's focus will be to prepare for presidential and parliamentary elections, not to negotiate with Israel. Such elections won't be held in May, as initially envisioned, they said, but could take place several months later.

Romania's government collapses after protests

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Romania's government has collapsed following weeks of protests against austerity measures, the latest debt-stricken government in Europe to fall in the face of raising public anger over biting cuts.

Emil Boc, who had been prime minister since 2008, said Monday he was resigning "to defuse political and social tension" and to make way for a new government. Thousands of Romanians took to the streets in January to protest salary cuts, higher taxes and the widespread perception that the government was not interested in the public's hardships in this nation of 22 million.

President Traian Basescu quickly appointed Justice Minister Catalin Predoiu, the only Cabinet member unaffiliated with a political party, as interim prime minister to serve until a new government is approved.

Basescu also nominated Mi-

hai Razvan Ungureanu, the head of Romania's foreign intelligence service, as the country's new prime minister and asked him to form a Cabinet. Parliament must approve Ungureanu and his ministers in 60 days, or the legislature will be dissolved and new elections held.

Boc's party and his allies still have a majority in Parliament, but opposition parties late Monday called for Basescu to resign and for early parliamentary elections to be scheduled now.

In a brief statement Ungureanu, a former foreign minister, said his priority as prime minister would be "the economic and political stability of Romania." He is considered a loyal ally of Basescu and pro-American in his outlook.

But the opposition said it opposes Ungureanu and that it will continue the boycott of Parliament it began last week. "We are not going anywhere with this new government," said Crin

Antonescu, head of the opposition Liberal Party.

Boc's resignation came as Romania is starting to feel the effects of the widespread cuts that the government put in place in exchange for a euro20 billion (\$26 billion) loan from the International Monetary Fund, the European Union and the World Bank in 2009, to help pay salaries and pensions after its economy shrank by more than 7 percent.

In 2010, Boc's government increased the sales tax from 19 percent to 24 percent and cut public workers' salaries by a quarter to reduce the budget deficit.

Jeffrey Franks, the head of the IMF mission to Romania, said Sunday he is confident that economic reforms the fund demanded in exchange for the loan would continue, even if the current government steps down.

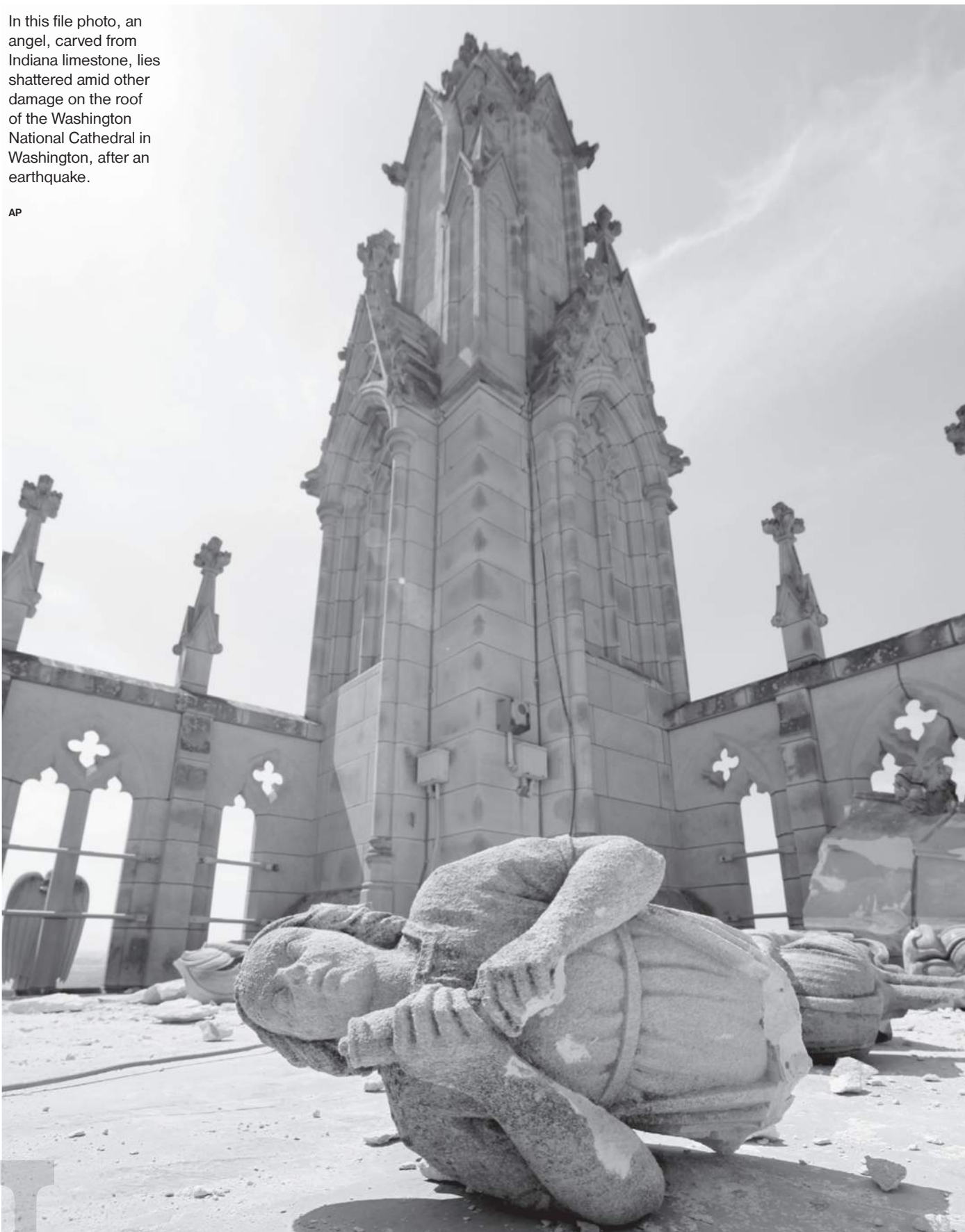
On Monday, Boc urged the nation's feuding politicians to elect a new government quickly.

Focus

Earthquake prediction still stymies scientists

In this file photo, an angel, carved from Indiana limestone, lies shattered amid other damage on the roof of the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, after an earthquake.

AP



By **ALICIA CHANG**
AP SCIENCE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The last East Coast earthquake left more than just residents unaccustomed to feeling the ground shake and sway in a daze. It also surprised some scientists who spend their careers trying to untangle the mysteries of sudden ground shifts.

Despite decades of research, earthquake prediction remains elusive. As much as society would like scientists to tell us when a jolt is coming, mainstream seismologists are generally pessimistic about ever having that ability.

They lived through the checkered history of earthquake prediction, filled with passionate debates, failed oracles and the

enduring search for warning signs that may portend a powerful quake. The Earth so far has refused to give up its secrets.

In recent years, however, a more hopeful camp has emerged, pushed by researchers using satellites who say it may be possible to someday predict earthquakes from space and others who think they can tease out signals in rocks. The two schools of thought swapped notes during a two-day meeting in Los Angeles weeks before a relatively mild magnitude-5.8 rattled the Eastern Seaboard.

“I was pretty skeptical going in and I remain skeptical,” said Washington state seismologist John Vidale, who was among 44 scientists from around the world who attended the invitation-only meeting.

Geophysicist Malcolm Johnston with the U.S. Geological Survey agreed.

“I’ve been chasing this for a long time,” he said. “If you think you can detect the start of an earthquake, it’s going to be very, very difficult.”

How earthquakes occur is well known. The Earth’s crust is like a giant jigsaw puzzle, broken into several pieces known as tectonic plates that constantly bump and grind or slide past each other. The movement happens slowly, about the speed at which our fingernails grow. Eventually, there’s enough pent-up stress and the rocks suddenly slip, releasing tremendous energy that we feel as shaking.

Most earthquakes are small and imperceptible. Occasionally, a powerful one wreaks havoc like

the ones that ravaged Haiti last year and coastal Japan in March. No one knows how a small rumble can cascade into a big one.

Spurred in part by a pair of megaquakes in the 1960s, scientists began looking in earnest for signals that will help them distinguish a serious quake from the garden variety. Hopes were high for reading the seismic tea leaves. They scoured for anything and everything that might be a clue: warping in the Earth’s crust, radon gas releases along a fault, weird weather and even the behavior of cockroaches, snakes and other animals.

None of the phenomena studied panned out, but the notion that animals might have a “sixth sense” persists to today.

Keepers at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. reported

that lemurs, a gorilla and an orangutan were restless and making noises minutes before the East Coast quake on Aug. 23. Scientists say animals can sometimes feel the first arriving seismic waves before people do, but this happens after a fault has ruptured. In other words, the earthquake has already begun.

The only prediction the United States made was back in the mid-1980s when government scientists said a strong quake will hit a rural town straddling California’s famous San Andreas Fault before 1993 based on how many temblors had occurred there in the past.

Crews buried high-tech instruments in

Parkfield, halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco, in hopes of catching it. The deadline came and went with no significant quiver. A strong quake finally did shake Parkfield—10 years later.

USGS geophysicist Michael Blanpied, who considers himself agnostic on whether quakes are predictable, said any sign that might point to a big quake would likely be subtle.

“I remain to be proven wrong on that,” Blanpied said.

In the other corner are researchers who are more optimistic about finding earthquake precursors. They tend to work in fields like physics and atmospheric science. The group got together with earthquake researchers at the University of Southern California in late July to start a dialogue.

The campus houses the Southern California Earthquake Center where a worldwide project is underway to test forecast methods. The center spon-

sored the meeting with NASA, which funds groups looking into earthquake prediction. Participants did not rate the merits of the contested theories, but all agreed that more study was needed.

Physicist Dimitar Ouzounov of Chapman University, who uses satellite data to discern how changes in the atmosphere might have a relation to earthquakes, is well aware of the frustrating history of earthquake prediction. Ouzounov, who is trained in seismology, said the field has reached a roadblock

and that other disciplines might be able to help.

NASA researcher Friedemann

Freund, who studies electrical signals from rocks being squeezed, admits it’s hard to change people’s minds.

“This is not going to happen on the spot,” he said. “You can inoculate them with new ideas. They always want to keep their skeptical distance and I understand.”

While scientists can’t pin down when a damaging quake will strike in a narrow time frame, they are able to make long-term forecasts based on a region’s seismic history. For example, because of California’s shaky past, the USGS has calculated that the state faces an almost certain risk—a 99.7 percent chance—of being rocked by a magnitude-6.7 quake or larger by 2038. These long-term odds are as specific as can get.

Despite the slow progress, scientists agree the goal is worth pursuing.

Said the USGS’s Johnston: “We have to keep looking just in the off chance that we have missed something.”

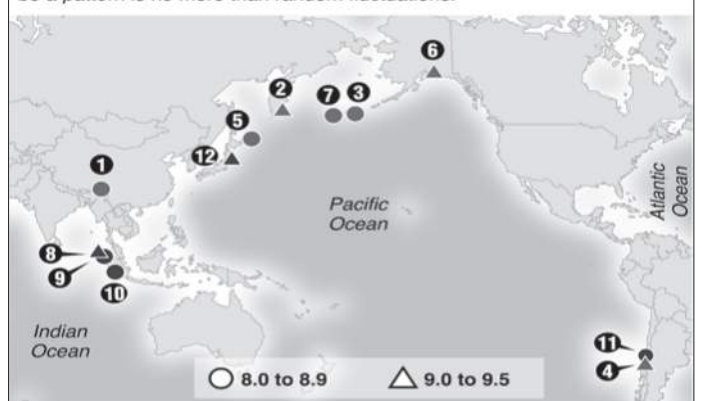
ON THE NET

■ U.S. Geological Survey:
<http://earthquake.usgs.gov>

■ Quake myths explained:
<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/faq/?categoryID=6>

An age of megaquakes?

Some scientists say a period of more frequent megaquakes is under way, similar to 1950-65. But most experts are convinced that what appears to be a pattern is no more than random fluctuations.



Earthquakes of magnitude 8.5 or greater since 1950

1950-1965

1. Tibet, 1950 **8.6**
2. Russia, 1952 **9.0**
3. Alaska, 1957 **8.6**
4. Chile, 1960 **9.5**
5. Russia, 1963 **8.5**
6. Alaska, 1964 **9.2**
7. Alaska, 1965 **8.7**

2004-2011

8. Indonesia, 2004 **9.1**
9. Indonesia, 2005 **8.6***
10. Indonesia, 2007 **8.5***
11. Chile, 2010 **8.8**
12. Japan, 2011 **9.0**

*Aftershocks to the 2004 quake

© 2011 MCT
Source: ESRI, USGS
Graphic: A. Raymond, The Seattle Times

Campus Life

UOG names 8 Cancer Research Center scholars for 2012

MANGILAO, Guam—Eight University of Guam graduate students have each received a Cancer Research Center scholarship covering tuition and fees for the fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters. The scholarships are funded through the University of Guam's Cancer Research Center.

Death Anniversary



In Loving Memory of
Rosalia Tydingco Salas Concepcion 5th
 Maximo Soo Concepcion 35th

We, the family, humbly invite all of our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily mass is offered at 6:00am, Kristo Rai Church

On the final day, Saturday, February 11th, mass will be celebrated at 6:00am. Breakfast will be served immediately at the Kristo Rai, Church Social Hall.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ignacio S. Concepcion, Julia and Ronald D. Guerrero & Family, Maria and Steven Koch & Family, Maximo Concepcion Jr. and Melvina Igitol & Family, Lillian and Michael Camacho & Family, Linda and Robert Torres & Family, Jesse S. Concepcion & Children



Pictured seated from left are Sara Namazi, Joanna Caasi, UOG senior vice president and Cancer grant co-principal investigator Helen Whippy; Perinne Cruz; Cruz's son Malachi; and Melani Montano. Pictured from left standing are UOG faculty member John Moss, Johnny Silbanuz, Bradley Halbert, UOG Micronesian Studies adviser Todd Ames, John Howard, and Gil Suguitan, program manager, Cancer Research Center. Not pictured: Angelica Okada.

search Center.

Each of the scholars is pursuing a research project on a cancer-related issue. Scholars include:

■ Sara Namazi, a Master of Science in Environmental Science major, is studying possible links between indoor radon as a contributing factor leading to lung cancer.

■ Joanna Caasi, a Master of

micronesian Studies graduate student, is studying the utilization of the geographical information system as a tool for studies of environmental factors and their correlation to cancer.

■ Johnny Silbanuz, a Master in Public Administration student, is studying the effectiveness of tobacco use policies as they relate to UOG and GCC students.

■ Bradley Halbert, a pre-Environmental Science major is doing research prior to selecting his research topic.

Science in Clinical Psychology student, is studying the psychological health of cancer patients and their caregivers and attitudes about seeking psychological help.

■ Perinne Cruz, a Micronesian Studies graduate student, is studying Guam's adolescents and their knowledge of the link between lifestyle and cancer.

■ Melani Montano, a Micronesian Studies graduate student, is studying the social, emotional and financial effects of cancer on the members of the Pacific Association of Radiation Survivors. (UOG)

■ John Howard, a Master of Public Administration major, plans to develop materials in Chuukese on the health risks of beetle nut.

■ Angelica Okada, a Micronesian Studies graduate student, is studying the social, emotional and financial effects of cancer on the members of the Pacific Association of Radiation Survivors. (UOG)

SDA SCHOOL AWARDEES

HONOR ROLL

Jin A Choi
 Sydney Lim
 Christina Selkor
 Ivan Sitchon
 John Christopher Fabros
 Seong Bin Heo
 Ki Chang Jeong
 Daeun Choi
 Langting Lao
 Chen Yang Lin
 Mariol Lopez
 Shane Conlon

PRINCIPAL'S LIST

Ava Deleon Guerrero
 Manuel Pangelinan
 Yurihana Sasamoto
 Ahwi Lee
 Parker Callier
 Shaquille Andrei Calub
 Cory Lee
 Seong Eon Heo
 Harvey Zhang
 Amari Glover
 Donaven Deleon Guerrero
 Quincy Chinen
 Jon Ernest Lacorte
 Michelle Palacios
 Danielle Zayco

In celebration of his new life Ernesto Dela Rosa Palero

Lovingly known as "Erning"
 May 30, 1952 – February 2, 2012

He will now join his:

Parents: †Abraham Palero & †Josefa Palero
Parents-in-law: †Rodrigo Perje & †Consuelo Perje
Son: †Edric O. Palero
Brother: †Rufino Palero

He will live forever in the hearts of his:

Wife: Rosalinda Perje Palero
Children: Larry O. Palero, Ronnie O. Palero, Joana Marie P. Palero & Ira Marie P. Palero
Daughters-in-law: Liway P. Palero, Madie A. Palero & Felecesima M. Palero
Grand Children: Gwyneth Eazel P. Palero, Patricia May A. Palero, Luke Mark A. Palero & Carlo Miguel A. Palero

Brothers & Sisters: Armentario Palero, Emanuel Palero, Nestor Palero, Gregorio Palero, Alfredo Palero, Luzviminda Palero, Lolita Palero & Liza Palero

He will also be missed by his numerous relatives and friends:

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at 6:00 pm at San Vicente Church. Nightly rosaries are being said at 7:00pm in our beloved's residence in Chalan Piao across Hopwood.

On Friday, February 10, 2012 at 7:30am, his remains will be escorted from CHC to San Vicente Church. Viewing and last respects will be held from 8:00am to 10:00am at San Vicente Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

The Family

ISLAND VIEWS

The following are written by students of the Writing Class of Mrs. Robinson at the Northern Marianas College. The views expressed are solely those of the students.

By BENJAMIN AYUYU

Hunting my first deer was one of the most memorable days I spent growing up on Rota. It was a Saturday night during the deer hunting season when my cousin William and I met. We wanted to hunt to see if we could catch a deer. William and I decided to go to a place called Sabana. It is a deer breeding ground; it is the most well-known place to hunt for big bucks. When we got to Sabana, we decided to go our separate ways. My cousin went up north near the mountains and I went west. Alone, I was very nervous that night. I planned to just sit on the ground and call the deer with my bamboo caller device. However, I had second thoughts. I remembered that deer have strong instincts. So I decided to climb up a tree. After an hour of sitting and waiting in the tree, and making deer calls on the bamboo caller, I heard something move toward me. I turned on my flashlight and I saw two large, glowing eyes staring straight at me. I started to fire my gun at the deer, using about 10 shots. I was trembling with nervousness as I climbed down the tree. When I walked toward the bushes, I saw two huge horns on the ground. I was so happy. I shot my first deer, and I also received a wonderful trophy.

By JOVINETTE SABLAN

A person who stops trying is the one who fails, not the one who continues to try. People seem to give up when they do not succeed the first time. Those who continue to accomplish what they set out to do are more likely to get it right. It is like trying to ride a bike for the first time. You may not stay long

on the bike the first time you ride, but if you continue to pedal and strive to stay balanced, you will be riding that bike to the next village. Anything is possible if you set your mind to it and never give up. However, stopping because you did not get it right the first few times, that is failure.

By LYDEE PANGELINAN

The best village on Saipan is San Vicente. It has almost everything a resident needs. There is a Neighborhood Security Watch, which offers safety and comfort to many households in the village. There is also a gas station, a hardware store, supermarkets, churches, a pharmacy, and one of the top elementary schools on the island: San Vicente Elementary School. With all these amenities in or near the village, residents do not have to drive around the island for their needs. Almost all of the stores are within walking distance, which helps residents live a healthier lifestyle. Lastly, the renovations of the main highway are almost complete, providing easier traffic flow in and out of the village.

By JAMES INGRAM

I enjoy playing basketball the most, but I also love to swim. When I go swimming at the beach, my favorite thing is watching the life underwater. It is an amazing sight to see. I never get tired of seeing the beautiful fishes swimming near the seaweed grass waving back and forth to the motion of the water. Also awesome is the aqua blue color of the ocean, shining and glimmering in the sunlight.

Another hobby I enjoy is running. I like the wind blowing in my face and the sun shining down on me. Of course, it is the adrenaline rush that pushes me to complete my run. I run for good health, because I want to stay healthy. So I run on never-ending journeys around the beautiful island of Saipan. It is a hobby of mine that makes me feel fine.

Life & Style

'Halftime in America' ad creates political debate

DETROIT (AP)—People rarely pick a fight with Dirty Harry. But Chrysler's "Halftime in America" ad featuring quintessential tough guy Clint Eastwood has generated fierce debate about whether it accurately portrays the country's most economically distressed city or amounts to a campaign ad for President Barack Obama and the auto bailouts.

The 2-minute ad holds up Detroit as a model for American recovery while idealistic images of families, middle class workers and factories scroll across the screen.

"People are out of work and they're hurting," the 81-year-old Eastwood says in his trademark gravelly voice. "And they're all wondering what they're gonna do to make a comeback. And we're all scared because this isn't a game. The people of Detroit know a little something about this. They almost lost everything. But we all pulled together. Now, Motor City is fighting again."

Conservatives, including GOP strategist Karl Rove, criticized the ad as a not-so-thinly veiled endorsement of the federal government's auto industry bailouts. Others questioned basing a story of economic resurgence in a city that remains in fiscal disarray, with a \$200 million budget deficit and cash flow

concerns that have it fending off a state takeover.

But is it political? That depends on who you ask.

"I can't stop anybody from associating themselves with a message, but it was not intended to be any type of political overture on our part," Chrysler Chief Executive Sergio Marchionne told WJR-AM in Detroit. "You know, we're just an ingredient of a big machine here in this country that makes us go on."

Last year was a pivotal turnaround year for Chrysler, which nearly collapsed in 2009. The company and its financial arm needed a \$12.5 billion government bailout and a trip through bankruptcy protection to survive. Chrysler has since repaid its U.S. and Canadian government loans by refinancing them, but the U.S. government says it lost about \$1.3 billion on the deal.

The ad with Eastwood, who previously publicly slammed

Censors MIA on M.I.A.'s finger flip

NEW YORK (AP)—Less than a second stood between British singer M.I.A. giving the finger to 114 million people watching the Super Bowl halftime show and no one noticing at all.

That's how close NBC censors came to preventing the gesture from being seen Sunday night, but the Super Bowl instead wound up with another entertainment oops moment. The gesture swept across social media, showing up in screen grabs and video, reminding everyone of Janet Jackson's infamous wardrobe malfunction in 2004 when a nipple was exposed ever so briefly to a Super Bowl audience.

Both NBC and the NFL, which puts on the halftime show, apologized.

M.I.A.'s record label said Monday it had no comment and her Twitter account was silent since noting she was in Lucas Oil Stadium with Madonna. And the Material Girl, who invited M.I.A. to appear during her performance of "Give Me All Your Luvvin'," had no immediate comment.

The Nielsen Co. said that 114 million people watched Madonna's halftime show, even more than the average of 111.3 million who watched the game. It was the most-watched halftime entertainment show ever.

The gesture was "so shocking

that I had no idea she even did it until NBC issued an apology for it," wrote Time magazine TV critic James Poniewozik on his blog.

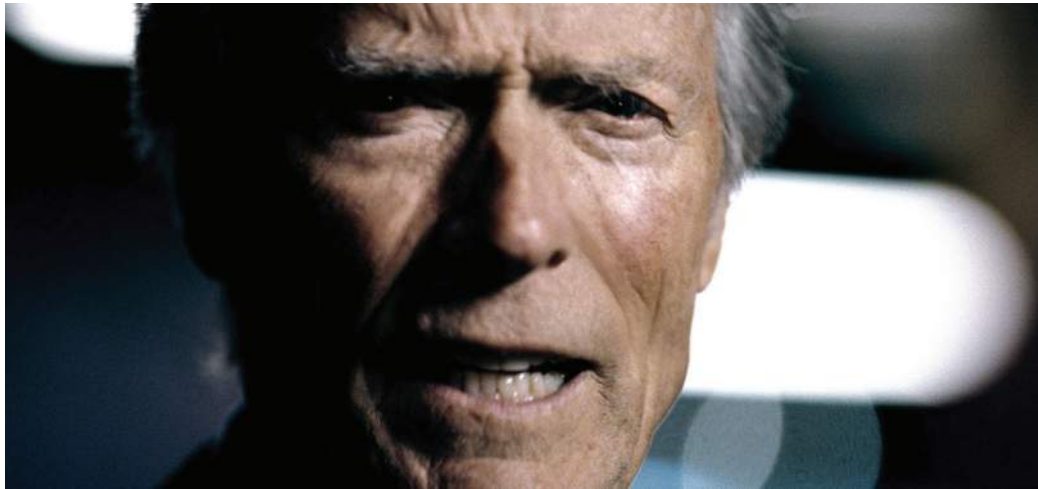
The digital video recorder maker Tivo said there were no appreciable bumps in playbacks at the time of M.I.A.'s gesture, meaning many people either didn't see it or shrugged it off. Tivo has some 2 million customers in the U.S., said Tara Maitra, the company's senior vice president.

"I never even noticed," said Joan Kistner, a marketer from Chicago who watched the game. "It wasn't until this morning when I heard the news" and so many people were talking about it that she knew it happened.

"I don't know why they glorify bad behavior," Kistner said. "Some things should just be left alone. I really think she owes Madonna, who obviously wanted her to be part of the show, an apology."

The NFL and NBC should take steps to hold people accountable for their actions, said Tim Winter, president of the Parents Television Council.

"Most families would agree that the middle finger aimed directly at them is not appropriate, especially during the most-watched television event of the year," Winter said.



This advertisement provided by Chrysler Group LLC, shows actor Clint Eastwood, featured in an ad titled "It's Halftime In America," which aired during Super Bowl XLVI, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012.


the auto bailout, follows a highly popular one that aired last Super Bowl featuring hip-hop star and Detroit-native Eminem driving a Chrysler 200 through stark city streets—and introduced the tagline "Imported From Detroit."

This time around, the focus was on faces and factories—far less on cars. Monday editions of USA Today came wrapped in a four-page ad that features Eastwood and images from the commercial. It also touts investments outside Detroit, specifically in Belvidere, Ill., where it's making the new Dodge Dart.

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of

Emilia Villagomez Camacho "Emy"



We, the family humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in commemorating the passing of our Beloved Emy unto eternal life. Daily masses of intention will be offered at 6:00 a.m. at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 through the ninth and final day of mass on Thursday, February 9, 2012.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

AP: Chris Brown to perform at the Grammys

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Brown will perform at this year's Grammy Awards, the event where his career almost ended three years ago.

Brown admitted to assaulting then-girlfriend Rihanna at a pre-Grammy party in 2009 and is serving five years of probation for the felony attack. A source told The Associated Press on Monday that Brown will hit the stage at Sunday's show. The source spoke on condition of anonymity because Brown's performance has not been officially announced.

After the attack, Brown's reputation plummeted, but he has since bounced back, releasing multiple mixtapes and the multi-hit album, "F.A.M.E. (Forgiving All My Enemies)." The CD is nominated for three Grammys, including best R&B album.

Rihanna also will perform at the show. She's nominated for four awards, including the top prize—album of the year—for her platinum effort "Loud."

Brown and Rihanna were supposed to perform at the 2009 Grammys, but that changed after



In this July 15, 2011 file photo, singer Chris Brown performs on NBC's Today Show in New York. AP

Brown attacked the pop singer in the early morning hours before the awards show. Since then, Brown

has not attended the Grammys, although he was nominated for three awards last year.

A judge eased a restraining order last February after an attorney for Rihanna said she didn't

object to removing the stay-away provisions. The former order required Brown to stay 50 yards away from 23-year-old Rihanna, but the restriction was reduced to 10 yards if they were at a music industry event.

Brown, 22, has been nominated for Grammys in five of the last six years, though he has never picked up the top prize in music. His song "Look at Me Now," which features Lil Wayne and Busta Rhymes, is nominated for best rap song and best rap performance.

Rihanna is the owner of four Grammys, three with Jay-Z. She alone won a Grammy last year for her No. 1 smash, "Only Girl (In the World)" for best dance recording. In addition to album of the year, her fifth CD "Loud" is up for best pop vocal album. Rihanna is also nominated twice for best rap/sung collaboration for another No. 1 jam—the Drake-assisted "What's My Name?"—and for her guest appearance on Kanye West's "All of the Lights."

The Grammys will air live on CBS from the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

'Amazing Spider-Man' footage teased for fans

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Amazing Spider-Man" dropped in on hundreds of fans Monday.

Sony Pictures teased the latest incarnation of the web-slinging superhero, which doesn't arrive in U.S. theaters until July 3, at preview events held Monday at movie theaters in 13 cities spanning the globe, including Mexico City, Berlin, Rome, Paris and Moscow, with the cast and filmmakers appearing in Los Angeles, New York, Rio de Janeiro and London.

The event began with the debut of the 3-D full-length "Amazing Spider-Man" trailer, which will hit theaters this weekend and debut online Wednesday. The trailer featured footage of Andrew Garfield as a charmingly awkward Peter Parker being bullied at school, testing out his new web-slinging gadgets and battling the villainous Lizard high above New York.

"I think there are a lot of things from the Spider-Man canon that haven't yet been explored cinematically," said director Marc Webb in Los Angeles. "This movie really starts off with Peter Parker and his parents, which is something we've never really seen before, and I think that was something we were all really interested in exploring as filmmakers."

Garfield, who appeared in New York, said Spider-Man is more than just a character. He's a symbol that was once portrayed by Tobey Maguire and now by himself, and he hoped the next person to play the crime-fighting superhero would be a "half-Hispanic, half African-American actor," referencing the latest incarnation of the character in the comic books.

Emma Stone, who plays love interest Gwen Stacey, told fans in Rio de Janeiro that Stacey and Mary Jane Watson, Parker's girlfriend portrayed by Kirsten Dunst in the previous films, are "polar opposites," while Rhys Ifans said in London that his character, Dr. Curt Connors, who becomes the Lizard, has "a very complex and emotional" link to Parker.

After the cast addressed fans, Webb unveiled extended 2-D footage from the film peppered with music from the Rolling Stones and Coldplay. The scenes included Parker asking Stacey out on a date, Spider-Man humorously blasting a car thief with webs and the one-armed Dr. Connors telling Parker that "your father and I were going to change the lives of millions."

Dr. Oz's health effort nets 1 million participants

NEW YORK (AP)—Television already has "The Biggest Loser." Dr. Mehmet Oz is looking for the biggest number of losers.

"The Dr. Oz Show" said Monday that it had netted its 1 millionth participant in its "transformation nation" health effort, and the number is climbing. One of those people will win a \$1 million prize in May.

Since September, Oz has urged viewers to participate in

his health challenge, done together with Weight Watchers. The number of registrants has increased steadily to a point that Oz said he'd never imagined the program would reach.

"It is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," Oz said.

Oz's program has seven steps,



Oz

starting with the simplest: Tell a friend to get some moral support. Participants are asked to register with Weight Watchers and go to a center to have their body mass index calculated. Other

steps include connecting with a doctor, learning your family's health history, getting more sleep, managing

stress better and starting new fitness habits.

A sample of 96,000 registrants who had weighed in at Weight Watchers determined they had collectively lost 672,000 pounds, or an average of 7 pounds per person, the show said.

The show will select 10 finalists that it believes best embody the effort—not necessarily those who lose the most weight—and

viewers will choose a favorite this spring for the \$1 million prize. People need to register by Feb. 26 to be eligible.

Participants are sent weekly email reminders by the show of things they need to do to reach their goals, tailored to their individual circumstances.

"Fundamentally, it's about making it easier to do the right thing," Oz said.

Oz also said he hoped the project would be a model for using TV to accomplish worthwhile goals.

Clooney, Pitt, other pals gather for Oscar lunch

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—George Clooney says the best thing about Academy Awards nominations is not necessarily the prizes. It's hanging with old and new friends.

At the annual Oscar nominee luncheon Monday, Clooney said he's made new pals on the awards circuit this season and has been happy to catch up with long-time friends such as Viola Davis and Brad Pitt, his co-star in the "Ocean's Eleven" movies.

"A lot of people at home think we all hang out together. I think they think we're always at the Hilton drinking champagne. The truth is I hadn't seen Brad in about a year" until they crossed paths around the time of January's Golden Globes, Clooney told reporters before sitting down to lunch. "So it's fun to catch up, and it's fun to see people I like and haven't seen in a long time."

Both are up for the best-actor Oscar—Clooney for "The Descendants" and Pitt for "Moneyball."

Clooney said he also has had fun getting to know other nominees such as best-actor contend-



AP Academy Awards Best Actor nominees Jean Dujardin, left, of "The Artist" and George Clooney of "The Descendants" are shown during a group photo of nominees at the 31st Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon in Beverly Hills, Calif., Monday, Feb. 6, 2012.

ers Gary Oldman of "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," Jean Dujardin of "The Artist" and Demian Bichir of "A Better Life."

Pitt joked that like Clooney, awards season has allowed him to make a lot of new acquaintances.

"I met this guy named George," Pitt said, stumbling over the pronunciation of the name, "G-g-George, Jorge Clooney. Very nice guy. Very personable and very nice guy."

Along with Clooney and Pitt, others among the 150 nominees at the luncheon included "The Help" co-stars Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer; "Albert Nobbs" co-stars Glenn Close and Janet McTeer; "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" star Rooney Mara; "My Week with Marilyn" co-stars Michelle Williams and Kenneth Branagh; "The Artist" co-star Bérénice Bejo; and "Hugo" director Martin Scorsese.

Davis, who appeared in Clooney's "Out of Sight" and "Solaris," has been such good friends with the superstar that he invited her and her husband to spend their honeymoon at his villa in Italy. She recalled having four- and five-course meals a day as the only guests at his 22-room home. But Davis said such romantic getaways and the glamorous get-ups she puts on for awards shows are not part of her daily life.

"If you guys could see me when I'm at home with my cornrows," Davis said. "I am not a glam woman. This definitely is a mask I put on for the public. My biggest fear is that paparazzi with some, like, lens is going to come into my backyard and see me when I get in my pool. That would be very unfortunate."

Six-time nominee Close recalled coming to the Oscar luncheon when she was first nominated for 1982's "The World According to Garp" and "being astounded that I met some people who were really almost hyperventilating as to whether they were going to win or not. And I have never understood that, because you just do the

simple math."

Close weighed being one of five best-actress nominees against the astronomical odds against success in show business, with the number of actors out of work at any given time and the sheer number of movies made each year.

"And then you're one of five," Close said. "How could you possibly think of yourself as a loser?"

Spencer, the supporting-actress front-runner, said she still remains star-struck being in the same room with superstars she has admired during a long career toiling in small TV and film roles before her breakout performance in "The Help."

"It's just a bunch of really normal people who happen to be named Glenn Close and George Clooney and Brad Pitt," Spencer said. "Sometimes, you just find yourself ogling them. I still do. I think I've kind of mauled everyone thus far."

Though she's new to the Oscars, Spencer has old friends herself among the field. She and fellow supporting-actress nominee Melissa McCarthy, a rare contender in a mainstream comedy for "Bridesmaids," have been pals for years.

Randy Travis arrested for public intoxication

SANGER, Texas (AP)—Country singer Randy Travis has apologized after being arrested on a charge of public intoxication outside a North Texas church.

Denton County sheriff's spokesman Tom Reedy says police in the town of Sanger arrested Travis early Monday after spotting a vehicle parked in front of a church and finding an open bottle of wine and Travis smelling of alcohol.

Reedy says Travis, whose hits include "Forever and Ever, Amen," was brought to the Denton County jail about 1:30 a.m. and released six hours later.

The singer, who lives in the small town of Tioga near Sanger, apologized in a statement to The Associated Press "for what resulted following an evening of celebrating the Super Bowl."

Travis, who launches a concert tour Friday, says he's "committed to being responsible and accountable."



This Feb. 6, 2012 booking photo provided by the Denton County Sheriff's Department in Texas, shows country music star Randy Travis. Travis was arrested in Sanger, Texas, on Monday, Feb. 6, 2012, on a charge of public intoxication.

mitted to being responsible and accountable."

Super Bowl draws record 111.3M viewers on NBC

NEW YORK (AP)—For the third consecutive year, the Super Bowl set a record as the most-watched television show in U.S. history.

The Nielsen Co. said Monday that an estimated 111.3 million people watched the New York Giants beat the New England Patriots on Sunday night. That narrowly beat the 111 million who watched Green Bay's win over Pittsburgh last year.

NBC was blessed by a competitive game between two teams that played in one of the Super Bowl's most memorable contests four years ago, with one of them representing the largest media market in the country.

The game wasn't over until Tom Brady's last-second heave into the end zone dropped onto the turf. That play itself had the biggest audience of any play in the game, according to the digital video recorder maker Tivo. Nielsen said 117.7 million people were watching during the last half hour of the game.

The last two Super Bowls, along with the 2010 game be-

tween New Orleans and Indianapolis and the finale of "M-A-S-H" in 1983, are the only programs to exceed 100 million viewers in U.S. television history.

Madonna has some bragging rights, too. Her halftime show was seen by an estimated 114 million people—a higher average than the game itself—and was the most-watched Super Bowl halftime entertainment show on record, Nielsen said.

"I was rooting for Madonna as much as I was for the Giants," said Tara Maitra, senior vice president of Tivo, which also monitored viewership trends during the game.

The good news continued after the game for NBC, when the heavily-promoted season premiere of "The Voice" kept 37.6 million people in front of the television.

Its fans were disappointed, but Boston had its highest rating ever for an NFL game on Sunday. It was the second highest-rating ever in the New York market, behind only the Giants' first Super Bowl in 1986, Nielsen said.

Tony Danza to hit Broadway in 'Honeymoon in Vegas'

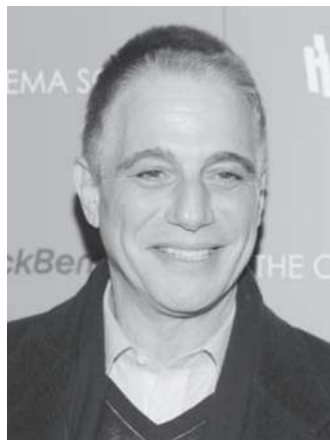
NEW YORK (AP)—Tony Danza is Broadway-bound, starring in a musical based on the movie "Honeymoon in Vegas."

Producers said Monday that the former "Taxi" star will play a Vegas wiseguy in the show, which makes its debut in November in Toronto. It is then headed to Broadway in the spring of 2013.

The musical features music and lyrics by Tony Award winner Jason Robert Brown and a book by Andrew Bergman, who also directed and wrote the film.

The 1992 movie starred James Caan, Nicolas Cage and Sarah Jessica Parker. It tells the story of a reluctant groom whose bride-to-be is courted by Danza's character.

Danza was on Broadway in Mel Brooks' musical "The Pro-



In a Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012 file photo, Tony Danza attends a special screening of "Haywire" hosted by the Cinema Society at the Landmark Sunshine Cinema in New York.

ducers" and in the 1997 production of "A View from the Bridge."

Despite Gisele, Patriots say no finger-pointing



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady and his wife, super-model Gisele Bündchen, leave the stadium after the Patriots lost 21-17 to the New York Giants in the NFL Super Bowl XLVI football game, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, in Indianapolis.

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The Patriots say there's no finger-pointing after their Super Bowl loss, even if super-model Gisele Bündchen won't abide by that code.

The wife of New England quarterback Tom Brady was caught on camera complaining that dropped passes doomed the team to a 21-17 loss to the New York Giants on Sunday—the Patriots' second loss in the NFL title game loss in five seasons.

Late in the game, usually dependable receiver Wes Welker dropped a pass that went off his hands; Aaron Hernandez and Deion Branch also had trouble coming up with catches. Bündchen was caught on video by TheInsider.com responding to a pro-Giants heckler after the game by saying, "My husband

cannot (expletive) throw the ball and catch the ball at the same time."

Brady was not available for comment on Monday, when the team flew back from Indianapolis and arrived at Gillette Stadium on buses. Asked if the team had any comment, Patriots spokesman Stacey James pursed his lips together and shook his head from side to side.

But defensive back James Ihedigbo says Welker was a big reason the Patriots made it to the Super Bowl, and he's not to blame for the loss.

"You can't point fingers at anybody. Wes made amazing plays all season," Ihedigbo said. "You win it as a team; you win it and lose it as a team. And we lost to a good football team."

Univision, Disney look at English news channel

MIAMI (AP)—Univision and Disney are in negotiations to create a 24-hour news channel for Latinos in English, two sources close to the negotiations said Monday.

Both sources declined to go on the record because they were not authorized to speak.

The channel likely would be broadcasting before the November presidential election.

The move comes in response to the 2010 census, which

showed U.S. born Latinos were the fastest growing segment of the nation's Hispanic population. That means in order to retain its audience, Univision must reach out to second and third-generation Latinos who speak English as their first language.

The proposed deal also reflects the growing efforts of mainstream media companies to target Latinos.

Man's ex-girlfriend has warning for his fiancée

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Brady," broke up with me in November. Five weeks later he became engaged to someone else. I found out after that I have genital warts. My yearly exams never showed any problems before, so I know I got them from Brady. I'm getting treatment now, but I'll be contagious for the rest of my life.

Dear Abby

I have been unable to tell Brady about this because he won't respond to my attempts to contact him. I'm now trying to decide if I should tell his fiancée. I know he wants children, and this disease can have some serious repercussions if she gets pregnant.

Do I leave this woman in the dark, or should I give her the medical information she and her doctors should have?

NEEDS TO DO THE RIGHT THING IN NEW YORK

DEAR NEEDS TO DO THE RIGHT THING: Five weeks into a relationship is a whirlwind courtship, unless Brady was cheating on you with his fiancée before your breakup. If that's the case, she may be the person who infected Brady.

Since he won't respond to you, send him a registered letter informing him of your diagnosis, and any other information about genital warts you feel is relevant. If you're worried that the fiancée is in the dark about this, send her a copy—also by registered mail. That way you'll know it was received.

DEAR ABBY: I am the product of an interracial relationship from the late '60s. My maternal grandmother wanted nothing to do with me and made my teenage mother give me up for adoption. Before my biological mother passed away a few years ago, her dying wish was for my grandmother and me to form a relationship. She didn't want her mother to be alone in her final years.

I made an attempt to forge a relationship with my grandmother only to be told that she didn't like me because of the color of my skin. Since then, I have been having bad dreams of my mother being disappointed in me because I didn't fulfill her wish. Please advise me on what I should do.

UNACCEPTED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR UNACCEPTED: It takes two people to form a relationship. By reaching out to your grandmother, you did the best you could to fulfill your mother's wish -- which, from your description of your grandmother, was an unfair burden to try to place on you. There's no reason for you to court another round of rejection and, for your sake, I'm advising you not to.

It may help to write a letter to your mother, explaining to her what happened when you reached out to your grandmother and how it felt, then read it at her grave. But please, stop blaming yourself for your grandmother's inability to love.

DEAR ABBY: While going through pictures on my girlfriend's computer, I discovered that she had posed nude for a drawing by her artist daughter. For some reason, I am really bothered by her posing nude and doing it for her daughter. How can I bring this up, which will let her know that I was snooping on her computer?

SAW WAY TOO MUCH IN KENTUCKY

DEAR SAW WAY TOO MUCH: Why would you be "really bothered" by a mother posing nude for her daughter who is an artist? Most mothers and daughters have seen each other in states of undress and there is nothing shocking about it.

My advice is to first figure out what you think is "wrong" with it, then admit that you snooped so you can talk it out. After that, she can determine if she wants to continue being involved with a man who is as nosy and prudish as you appear to be.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,

-v-
FRANCES ALDAN VALDEZ and ELISEO ASUNCION VALDEZ,
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0034

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED, this 27th day of January, 2012 by order of the Court.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Petitioner:
Melanie Concepcion Koch

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF: DEMION JOSEPH KOCH TUDELA,

FCD-CN Civil Action No. 12-0056

NOTICE OF HEARING

A Minor Child.

By: Melanie Concepcion Koch

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 23rd, 2012, at 9:30am in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2012.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455/7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COUR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF] Civil Action
OF] No. 12-0036-CV
OF]
] **NOTICE OF**
LUIS CABRERA] **HEARING/**
CEPEDA,] **NOTICE TO**
] **CREDITORS**
Deceased.]
] Date: March 13, 2012
] Time: 1:30 p.m.
] Judge: Honorable
] Robert C. Naraja

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Juan B. Cepeda, has filed a petition for letters of administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule 15, Com. R. Prob.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **March 13, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.** in Courtroom 202, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to Rule 21, Com. R. Prob., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to F. Matthew Smith at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

So NOTICED this 19th day of January, 2012

/S/ F. MATTHEW SMITH (F0264)
Attorney for Petitioner

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Lin scores 28, carries short-handed Knicks again



NEW YORK (AP)— Jeremy Lin scored a career-high 28 points in his first career start, Steve Novak added a season-best 19, and the New York Knicks overcame the absence of Amare Stoudemire and early loss of Carmelo Anthony to beat the Utah Jazz 99-88 on Monday night.

Stoudemire left the team to join his family in Florida after older brother Hazell was killed there earlier Monday in a car crash, then Anthony left after just six minutes with a strained right groin.

Despite missing two All-Stars and using a lineup of second-teamers, the Knicks won their second straight thanks to another remarkable performance from Lin, the former Harvard point guard.

Al Jefferson scored 22 points in a disappointing effort for the Jazz in the opener of a brief two-game road trip.

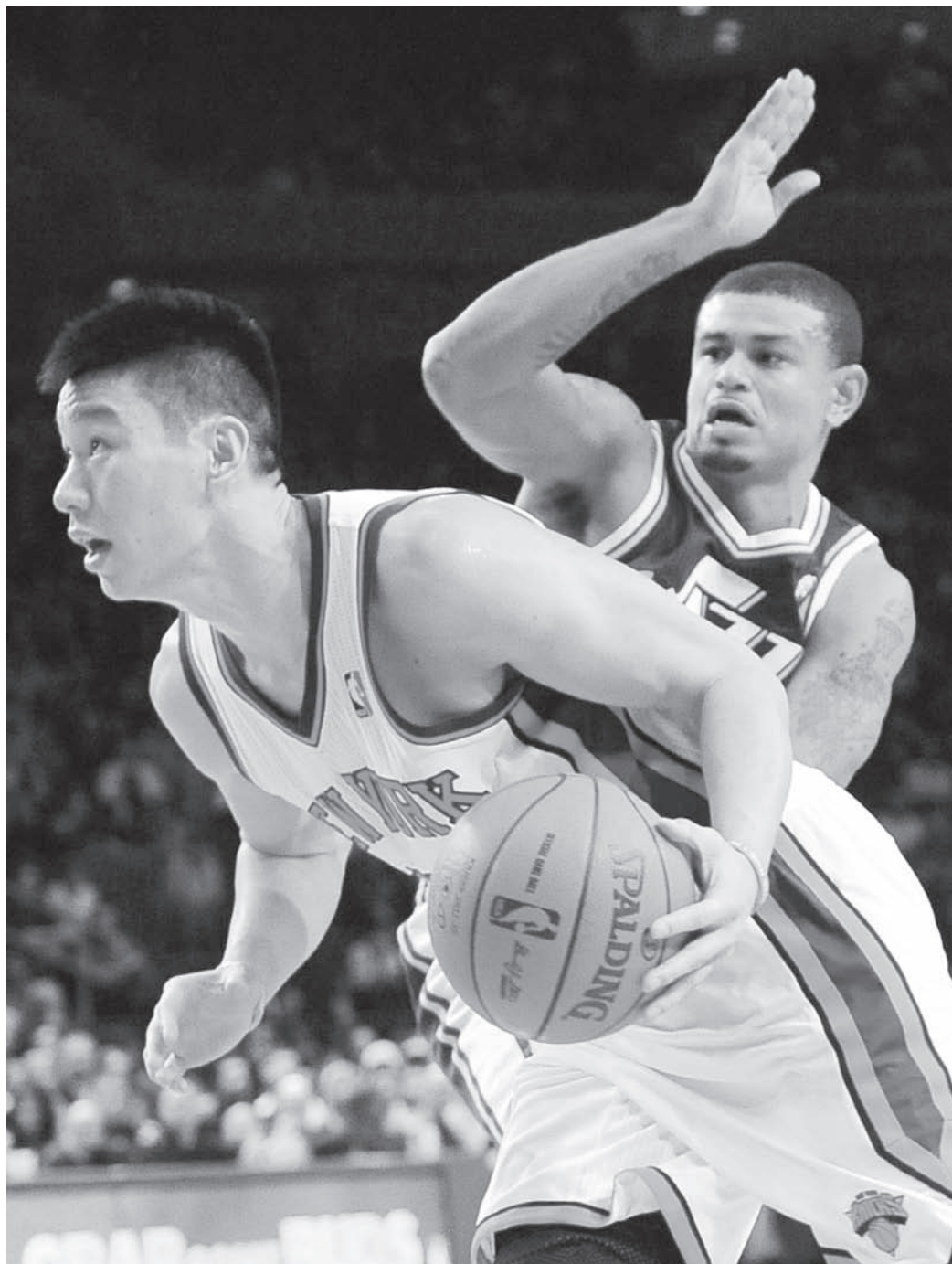
Going nowhere all season without a real point guard, the Knicks turned to Lin on Saturday against New Jersey, and he delivered 25 points. He was even better in this one in front of a crowd that again chanted his name much of the night, adding a career-best eight assists.

He made the biggest basket of a game, a desperation 3-pointer with the shot clock winding down and 1:58 remaining that gave the Knicks a 95-86 lead. He previously converted two three-point plays in the period, with coach Mike D'Antoni shaking his fists in the air after the latter pushed the lead to 10 with 4:29 left.

Lin and Novak, whose photocopied bios are included in the game notes package because they were signed too late to make the media guide, helped the Knicks overcome the absence of about 42 points per game from their two stars. So did Jared Jeffries, who added 13 points and eight rebounds while battling the much bigger Utah front line.

D'Antoni decided to turn to Lin, the first American-born NBA player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent, earlier Monday, and the position could be his for a while. Baron Davis, the expected starter when he becomes available, revealed that an infected right elbow had recently caused him to stop his workouts and it is unknown when he will resume practicing. D'Antoni said it would probably be a week to 10 days from the time he returns to practice to when he's ready to play in games.

The Knicks led 19-16 after one, gradually increasing it to 37-22 midway through the second quarter as the Jazz simply couldn't get any offense going. Novak came on to play the final 5:06 and scored 10 points, with Lin driving into the lane and kicking it out to him in the corner for a 3-pointer with 27



New York Knicks' Jeremy Lin (17) drives the ball past Utah Jazz's Earl Watson (11) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 6, 2012, in New York.

seconds left that gave New York a 51-38 halftime lead.

Chandler picked up his fourth foul and went to the bench about 1 1/2 minutes into the third quarter, leaving the Knicks with a lineup of Lin, Novak, Landry Fields, Bill Walker and Jeffries. The Jazz capitalized and nearly caught all the way up, pulling to 75-73 with 45 seconds left on a 3-pointer by Raja Bell, who scored 11 in the period.

76ers 95, Lakers 90

In Philadelphia, Lou Williams scored the go-ahead 3-pointer, scored 14 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, and spoiled Kobe Bryant's record-setting night while leading the Philadelphia 76ers to a win over the Los Angeles Lakers.

With "Beat L.A.!" echoing through a second straight sellout crowd, Williams hit the equalizing jump shot, then followed with the 3 for a 91-88 lead. He hit another floater to make it 93-88, part of a fantastic fourth that saw him hold off Bryant and help the Sixers improve to 13-3 at home.

Bryant scored 24 of his 28 points in the first half. He passed former teammate Shaquille O'Neal and moved into fifth place on the NBA's career scoring list. Bryant got 24 points in a hurry to pass O'Neal,

but stumbled down the stretch and missed nine of his 10 shots in the fourth.

Andrew Bynum had 20 points and 20 rebounds for the Lakers. Pau Gasol had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Clippers 107, Magic 102

In Orlando, Florida, Chris Paul scored 29 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter and overtime, as the Los Angeles Clippers overcame a 15-point first-half deficit and slipped by Orlando.

Blake Griffin and Chauncey Billups each added 18 points for the Clippers.

The Clippers have won six of the last seven games and snapped a nine-game losing streak to the Magic. But they may have lost Billups for an extended period after he slipped and left in the fourth quarter with a left Achilles injury.

Dwight Howard had 33 points and 14 rebounds, and Jason Richardson 20 points for the Magic.

Wizards 111, Raptors 108, OT

In Washington, John Wall scored 31 points, Nick Young had a season-high 29 and Trevor Booker

added a season-high 19 as Washington hung on to beat Toronto.

Young's two free throws with 1:06 to play gave Washington a 109-106 lead. The Raptors' Amir Johnson hit two free throws with 27.2 seconds left to make it 109-108. Booker hit the first of two free throws with 6.7 seconds left. Young rebounded Booker's miss, was fouled and hit the second of two free throws with 1.5 seconds left to make it 111-108. Linas Kleiza's 3-point attempt at the buzzer fell short.

Jerryd Bayless and Kleiza both had a season-high 30 points for Toronto.

Suns 99, Hawks 90

In Atlanta, Steve Nash scored 24 points as Phoenix broke open a close game with a 24-6 run to close the third quarter and beat Atlanta.

Nash, whose 38th birthday is Tuesday, had 11 assists and shot 9 of 12 — including each of his four 3-pointers. Channing Frye had 19 points, including a 3-pointer and another basket in the closing minutes to help the Suns stop Atlanta's final comeback attempt.

Smith had 18 points, and Johnson had 17 for the Hawks, who suffered their third straight loss, all at home, after a 4-1 road trip.

Bulls 108, Nets 87

In Newark, New Jersey, Carlos Boozer scored 24 points to lead Chicago to an easy victory over New Jersey.

Luol Deng scored 19 points and C.J. Watson added 14 points and 10 assists in place of Derrick Rose. The reigning league MVP played less than 11 minutes in the first half and the Bulls said at halftime that he would not return because of back spasms.

Deron Williams scored 25 points for the Nets, who only dressed nine players.

Kings 100, Hornets 92

In New Orleans, DeMarcus Cousins had 28 points and 19 rebounds as Sacramento erased an 18-point deficit en route to a victory over slumping New Orleans.

Tyreke Evans scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quar-

ter, when Sacramento took its first lead on Marcus Thornton's free throw with 6:24 left. Isaiah Thomas scored 17, including a 31-foot 3-pointer with 2:15 to go that gave the Kings a 94-88 lead. Thornton added 12 points.

Greivis Vasquez scored 20 points and Marco Belinelli 18 points for New Orleans, which has lost six straight.

Spurs 89, Grizzlies 84

In Memphis, Tennessee, Tony Parker scored 21 points, and Tim Duncan added 19 points and 17 rebounds to lead San Antonio over Memphis.

Duncan scored 13 of his points in the second half as the Spurs opened a nine-game road trip with a win.

Marc Gasol scored 22 points to lead Memphis, which led 73-67 entering the final period. Mike Conley scored 19 and Rudy Gay had 18 for the Grizzlies.

Rockets 99, Nuggets 90

In Denver, Luis Scola scored 25 points as Houston handed injury-riddled Denver its third straight loss.

The Nuggets not only lost for the fifth time in six games but they lost budding star forward Danilo Gallinari, who rolled his left ankle in the third quarter. X-rays revealed a chip fracture of the foot and he was scheduled for further tests Tuesday "for a definitive diagnosis," the team said.

Kyle Lowry added 20 points for Houston, which won for just the fourth time in a dozen road games.

Thunder 111, Trail Blazers 107, OT

In Portland, Oregon, Kevin Durant had 33 points, including a dunk with 2.9 seconds left in overtime, as Oklahoma City defeated Portland.

Russell Westbrook added 28 points and 11 rebounds for the Thunder, who upped their NBA-best record to 19-5.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 39 points for Portland, who led 103-101 with 6 seconds left in regulation before a goaltending call that drew the ire of the Rose Garden crowd and seemed to take the energy out of the Blazers.

Sports court strips Contador of 2010 Tour title



GENEVA (AP) — Three days after U.S. prosecutors

dropped their investigation of doping claims against Lance Armstrong, fellow Tour de France champion Alberto Contador was stripped of his 2010 title when sports' highest court rejected the Spanish cyclist's story that contaminated meat caused him to fail a drug test.

The 29-year-old Contador, who also won the Tour in 2007 and '09, tested positive for clenbuterol during a Tour rest

day in July 2010. Contador's ban was backdated to Jan. 25, 2011—making him eligible to return on Aug. 6.

"Unlike certain other countries, notably outside Europe, Spain is not known to have a contamination problem with clenbuterol in meat," the Court of Arbitration for Sport said in its ruling. "Furthermore, no other cases of athletes having tested positive to clenbuterol allegedly in connection with the consumption of Spanish meat are known."

Contador had been thought likely to challenge Arm-

strong's record of seven career Tour victories. Instead, he joins Floyd Landis as the only riders stripped of their Tour titles after testing positive for banned performance-enhancing drugs. Andy Schleck of Luxembourg is now in line to take Contador's 2010 title.

The CAS verdict in Lausanne, Switzerland, was delivered 566 days after Contador cycled triumphantly along the Champs d'Elysees in Paris.

The ruling came after Armstrong's own lengthy legal fight ended Friday, with U.S. federal authorities dropping an inves-

tigation into alleged doping involving his Tour teams.

Cycling's governing body, which had joined the World Anti-Doping Agency in forcing Contador into court, said it took no satisfaction from upholding its fight against drug cheats.

"This is a sad day for our sport," International Cycling Union president Pat McQuaid said in a statement. "Some may think of it as a victory, but that is not at all the case. There are no winners when it comes to the issue of doping: every case, irrespective of its characteristics, is always a case too many."

Belichick: Giving Giants TD gave Pats best chance



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Bill Belichick gave clear instructions to his defensive unit: Let the runner score.

Playing the odds and inviting critics, the calculating coach of the New England Patriots told his players to get out of the way, open a wide path for Ahmad Bradshaw and give Tom Brady a chance to win the Super Bowl in the final 57 seconds.

Unusual? Certainly.

Crazy? Not at all.

The strategy failed and the New York Giants won 21-17 on Sunday night. But Belichick was certain it gave the Patriots their best opportunity.

They led 17-15 with 1:04 left but had just one timeout as New York faced a second down only 6 yards from the goal line.

If the Patriots tackled Bradshaw, the clock would keep running if they didn't use the timeout. If they did use it, the Giants could let the clock run after the next play, leaving precious few seconds with Lawrence Tynes setting up for a chip-shot field goal.

A field goal, Belichick said Monday, that had a "well over 90 percent success rate" from that distance.

And that strategy was used, although it also failed, in the 1998 Super Bowl by Green Bay Packers coach Mike Holmgren against the Denver Broncos.

Still, it went against the competitive nature of defensive players, whose job it is to keep opponents out of the end zone, and runners, whose goal it is to get there.

"It killed me," said linebacker Brandon Spikes, a hard-hitting linebacker who simply stepped aside. "When the call came in to let them score, I was kind of like, 'What? I'm here to do my job and it's my job to play defense and let them score?' It was tough. It definitely was tough."

Bradshaw also had to fight off his instincts. As he approached the goal line, he tried to stop, like someone trying to avoid losing his balance. But his momentum carried him across the goal line, falling backward, even as game MVP Eli Manning yelled at him to go down.

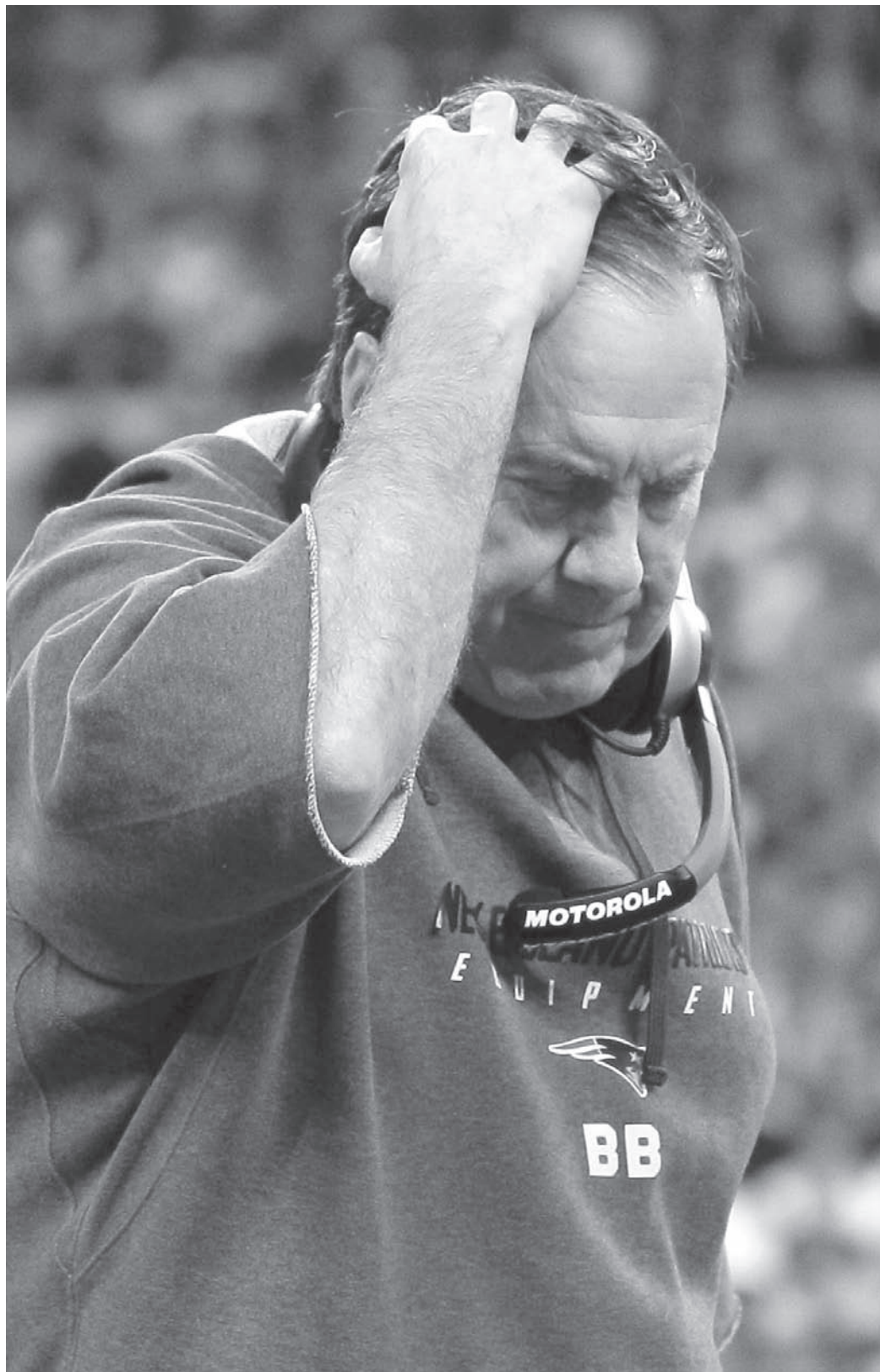
"I tried," Bradshaw said, "but I couldn't do it."

So it was 21-17 and Brady had those 57 seconds to score a touchdown. He had done it many times before.

Starting at his 20, he threw two incompletions and then was sacked. But on fourth down, he connected with Deion Branch for 19 yards and a first down at the 33. Then he hooked up with Aaron Hernandez for 11 yards to the 44 before spiking the ball. The Giants then drew a 5-yard penalty, moving the ball to the Patriots 49.

Still a chance, however slim.

With nine seconds left, Brady threw an incompleteness to Branch.



New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick walks down the field after talking to quarterback Tom Brady in the final seconds of the NFL Super Bowl XLVI football game against the New York Giants, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012, in Indianapolis.

With five seconds left, there was just one option—a desperation pass into a crowd in the end zone. It got there but, with tight ends Hernandez and Rob Gronkowski nearby, it dropped to the ground and the Patriots championship chances—and the clock—fell to zero.

Belichick's strategy, sound though it might have been, didn't work out.

"He made a good decision," Brady said. "We left ourselves with a little bit of time."

Early this season, the Patriots lost to the Buffalo Bills 34-31 in the third game when they couldn't get the ball back.

The Bills appeared to score with 1:43 left on a 39-yard pass play from Ryan Fitzpatrick to Fred Jackson. But the ruling that Jackson crossed the goal line was reversed after replay and Buffalo got the ball at the 1. Fitzpatrick kept kneeling on every play until Rian Lindell kicked a winning 28-yard field goal as time expired.

Belichick's clear-the-way or-

der was similar to Holmgren's decision in the 1998 Super Bowl. The score was tied at 24 when he let Terrell Davis score on a 1-yard run with 1:45 left rather than allow the Broncos to run down the clock for a short field goal attempt.

Brett Favre then led the Packers from their 30 to the Broncos 31. But after three straight incompletions, Denver regained possession with 28 seconds to go and John Elway knelt down to end the game.

More recently, the New York Jets had no timeouts and tried to let Jacksonville's Maurice Jones-Drew score on Nov. 15, 2009. But he stopped at the 1 after a 9-yard gain with about 1 1-2 minutes left.

"I was looking for someone to tackle me," he said.

David Garrard took a knee on the next two plays and Josh Scobee kicked a 21-yard field goal that gave the Jaguars a 24-22 victory.

Jones-Drew's play reminded Garrard of when Philadelphia's

Brian Westbrook also took a knee at the 1 to seal a late-season win over Dallas in 2007.

But the Super Bowl decision by Belichick is likely to linger the longest as sports fans debate its wisdom over the years.

At least one person with a rooting interest, Giants running back Brandon Jacobs, knew it wouldn't work.

"I respect Tom Brady and the New England Patriots," he said. "He does a great job with the guys he has. But if that was Drew Brees or Aaron Rodgers on the other side, with those big play outfits, 57 seconds would have been plenty enough time for those guys."

The Patriots' passes, he said, are much shorter.

"They needed a helluva lot more than 57 seconds to be able to win the football game," Jacobs said. "So I wasn't worried at all."

But what choice did they have?

"It was better than not having a chance at all," Brady said.

Tom Coughlin plans to be back with Giants in 2012

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Tom Coughlin is looking forward to the parade and a couple weeks off to reflect on the Giants' second championship in five seasons. Then he will begin preparations for defending the title.

The 65-year-old coach sees no reason to retire now.

"I mean, it's what I do," Coughlin said Monday morning, hours after New York beat the New England Patriots 21-17 in the Super Bowl. "So the alternative I've never really given it a whole lot of consideration. (Just coach) as long as I can."

Coughlin could be around for a while following his second title as a head coach. He signed a contract extension in July that runs through next season, but it looks as the Giants could revisit that deal following the franchise's fourth Super Bowl win.

It's obvious he still wants to coach.

"I don't fish, I don't golf," he said. "My wife keeps telling me, 'You better have something to do, buddy boy. If you think you're going to hang around here, you're crazy.'"

Giants chief executive John Mara said it's safe to say the team wants Coughlin to return.

"He might be 65, but he's got the energy of somebody quite younger than that," he said.

The Giants packed up early Monday morning and boarded busses around 11 a.m. for a trip to the airport and the flight back to New Jersey. Several players saluted the crowd as they departed the aircraft at Newark Liberty International Airport, and some used video recorders to capture the scene. Coughlin also had a big smile as he waved to the crowd.

The big parade up the Canyon of Heroes in lower Manhattan is scheduled for Tuesday.

"If you're any kind of historian, and you do have any recollection of this parade, the 'Parade of Champions' if you will, the 'Canyon of Heroes' - I remember John Mara looking at me and saying, 'You don't want to miss this now,'" Coughlin said of a conversation with Mara in 2008 after their first title win over the Patriots.

"It's the same thing I would convey to all of our players, you don't want to miss this," Coughlin added. "Heartwarming doesn't quite cover this, what you go through and what your feelings are. When you are looking down the side streets, and there's people forever down those side streets, and they're all there because they are taking ownership of their team."

Before he skipped town with the rest of the team, quarterback Eli Manning got the keys to the car he won for his second Super Bowl MVP award.

Manning, who led a game-winning 88-yard drive that culminated in Ahmad Bradshaw's uncontested touchdown run with 57 seconds to play, spent the evening with family and friends. Like most Giants, he had little sleep.

Coughlin quipped he had 15 minutes of rest.

Manning said his brother, Peyton, congratulated him on his performance and the title. They also talked football, with Peyton asking Eli if he saw the middle linebacker on his touchdown pass to Victor Cruz.

Eli said no.

Peyton, whose future with the Colts was a hot topic in Indianapolis during Super Bowl week, also defended his little brother, Eli said, referring to the 38-yard pass to Mario Manningham on the final Giants drive.

Manningham made a terrific catch between two defenders and managed to get his feet down in one of the game's biggest plays.

Many associated the importance of the catch with the one David Tyree made against his helmet in New York's winning drive four years ago.

It wasn't as good, but it helped just as much.

"He (Peyton) talked about the throw to Manningham," Eli said. "He was mad, he said everybody was talking about how great of a catch it was. He said it was a pretty good throw, also. It's a brother looking out for me. He was proud of me and happy for me."

Eli Manning didn't want to hear anything about bragging rights over his brother with two championships.

"This isn't about bragging rights," Eli said. "This is a lot bigger. This is about a team, an organization being named world champions, and that was the ultimate goal. That's the only thing that's important, is the team finding a way to get a victory. That's the only thing I care about and Peyton and I both know that's what the goal is every year. It's not about anything else."

Mara said everyone in the organization enjoyed themselves after the game.

"One thing that struck me just watching our guys all week was they have great camaraderie," Mara said. "Everybody got along really well, and just great spirit. Really unlike any other team that I've been around. It really was a special group."

Pacquiao lined up to fight Bradley

»With Mayweather off the menu, it's time for Tim



Manny Pacquiao is being lined up to fight Timothy Bradley at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on June 9.

Bob Arum, whose Top Rank promotes both fighters, says Pacquiao will put his WBO welterweight title on the line

if the right financial terms are agreed.

"I'm very optimistic I'll get it done, but right now it's just not done," Arum told USA Today.

With Floyd Mayweather Jr announcing last week that he would face Miguel Cotto on May 5, any immediate prospect of a megafight with Pacquiao disappeared.

Unbeaten

And now the Filipino superstar (54-3-2) appears likely to take on the unbeaten Bradley (28-0) instead.

Arum says he hopes to complete a deal by February 18, when Pacquiao will be in Vegas to attend a 70th birthday celebration for Muhammad Ali.

"I can plan to do the (press)



Pacquiao

tour with Manny and Bradley right after the 18th because I don't want Manny to come over

here for (the Ali celebration) and then go back and bring him over again," Arum said.

"It's a long trip so I'd like to knock it off while he's here. My goal is to get the thing done in the next few days."

Pacquiao is coming off two below-par performances—

a tepid points victory over Shane Mosley followed by what many saw as a highly fortunate decision against Juan Manuel Marquez.

Bradley meanwhile stopped Joel Casamayor in eight rounds on the undercard for Pacquiao/ Marquez III. *(Sky Sports)*

For The Love Of Volleyball tourney set Saturday



Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association will be hosting the 4th Annual For The Love Of Volleyball tournament this weekend on the Hyatt Regency Saipan sand courts.

Both men's and women's divisions are being offered in a double-elimination format.

In the past, special prizes were awarded to the Top 2 place finishers.

Participants must be at least 16

years of age.

The entrance fee is set at \$20 per player or \$15 for NMIVA members.

Registration takes place court-side at 8:30am and participants should bring their own partners. Games tip off at 9am.

Standard FIVB two-person volleyball rules apply and the servers must alternate.

Game point will start out at 15 with a cap of 21. In the semifinals and championship matches

game point will shift to 21 and be capped at 25.

Depending on the number of teams, organizers reserve the right to adjust the scoring parameters in order to finish all of the games in a timely fashion.

This year marks the second time the event will be held at the Hyatt.

The competition also serves as a good warm up event for the ever-popular Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival, slated

from Feb. 22 to March 4.

Last year, Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson swept a seven-team men's field, while Melody Matson and Amanda Clarkson triumphed undefeated over 10 other ladies' couples.

For early registration or more information contact Vangie Sablan at 234-1234, email vangie.sablan@hyattsaipan.com or email NMIVA's Laurie Peterka at nmivolleyball@gmail.com. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

MP

From Page 28

offside call. The Tumon Wings' Bradly Lubas scored the game's lone goal after a corner kick in the first half. Then late in the second half, MP United U12 had a chance to equalize when Sun Joon Tenorio evaded two defenders and kicked the ball in. However, the shot was ruled as offside, allowing the Tumon Wings to keep the win.

The Joel Jimenez-coached MP United U12 returned at the pitch in the afternoon and shut out the Strykers, 3-0. The visitors were also scheduled to face the Sidekicks for their third match, but the game was cancelled, as the latter did not have enough players. Then last Sunday, Jimenez's wards managed to avenge their loss to the Tumon Wings after nailing a 3-1 victory. After their games, Jimenez said playing against Guam teams gave his squad good exposure.

"By playing against the Guam teams, it gives us a chance to diversify," Jimenez was quoted as saying in an in-

terview with a Guam Football Association official. "It's good exposure for the team. "We're also trying to grow as an organization on Saipan. Hopefully, we'll get more interest in soccer on Saipan, especially with these travel opportunities."

Three straight games

MP United U15 was the last team to make it to Guam and was forced to play three consecutive games last Sunday as it was also scheduled to return to Saipan the same day.

Despite this trouble, MP United U15 said the trip was still worth it.

"It was a really great experience for the team. After our Saturday flight was cancelled I asked the boys if they still wanted to go even if it was Sunday already. Everyone still wanted to come to Guam to play and experience the new turf pitch. We don't have a turf pitch on Saipan," MP United coach Normal Del Rosario was quoted in a GFA report.

Del Rosario's players arrived in Guam about an hour before their first game against Guam's U15 team and lost the opener,

1-3. Ryota Ito scored MP United's lone goal in the game. Ito and company then played two more games in the afternoon and managed a 3-3 draw and 1-3 loss.

"This was a good wake-up call for the team. "It's always good for the team to experience the level of play outside of Saipan. We saw what our mistakes were and what we need to work on to improve further," Del Rosario added.

Perfect Desso turf

The friendly matches were played at the new Desso turf of GFA in Harmon and MP United players and coaches loved the artificial pitch.

"Natural grass is good, but after playing here, I think I prefer the turf," GFA quoted MP United U12 player Bada Lee. "It's a different feeling, like when I dive for the ball on the turf, it's a little itchy. I hope that we can have a turf pitch in Saipan, too."

"It was a perfect pitch. The boys had an excellent experience playing in a fast pitch," said Brad Ruzsala, who coached MP United U18 and led the team to

a 5-2 victory against Guam's U14 A Team and to an 11-3 triumph against the B squad.

Ruzsala added that some of his wards also had a chance to learn goal-keeping techniques from former Guam national players.

MP United U18 is composed of Seong Joon Lee, Nam Ki Kim, Moon Bin Hong, Dae Min Jeon, Jin Han Yoon, Joshua Borja, Greg Kim, Jewong Hwan Kim, Bob Kim, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Chris Camacho, Yong Jun Jeon, and Evert Van Der Maas. The club's U15 has Jehn Joyner, who is joined by co-captain and defender Enrico Del Rosario, Julian Pellegrino, Gregzon Fontanilla, Daniel Lim, Jake Lee, Andrew Johnson, Sam Soledad, Dakota Hall, Angelo Jones, Jordan Butcher, John Taisacan, Kennedy Izuka, John Masga, Kaisei Toda, and Ito. For the U12 team, Bada Lee and Tenorio were joined by Moris Villanueva, Colin Ramsey, Gee Syu Hahn, Tae Kim II, Wataru Tajima, Sung Wook Hong, Clayton Izuka, Kentaro Kitagawa, Alex Pak, Amir Abes, and Steven Kim.

Hands, and San Roque/Morales were in Group B. Completing the pool were Gualo Rai/Blue Haus, Dandan/Hawaiian Rock, Kagman/Destroyers, China Town/Slashers, and As Perdido/B-Boys.

chipped in two points each. Gechig and Aguilar had one kee apiece, while Kapwich connected one ace. Y.J. Nakayama gave Aim Low three points off the game's lone goal made in the second set.

one kee and one ace to add four markers.

Riden Fiden also logged 10 points on the losing end, hitting three kees, one ace, and one xunk, while Jalse Kapwich, J.R. Gechig, and A.J. Aguilar only

2012 Chamolinian softball season to start on Feb. 24



The Chamolinian Softball Association has penciled in Feb. 24 as the opening day for its 3rd Annual Budweiser Slow Pitch Softball League at the Capitol Hill Ballfield.

Organizers are holding a mandatory coaches and team representatives meeting at 6pm today, Feb. 8, at the pavilion behind the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to go over ground rules and other important details.

The entrance fee to participate is \$400 per team and the first teams to pay in full will be allotted slots.

This year there will be 15 men's teams and five women's squads.

Last year, the Man Amigos

swept its finals matches and advanced to the men's finals in first place. The team faced Natibu, who also advanced through its bracket unbeaten.

Natibu took Game 1, 29-25, and forced a rematch for all the marbles. Man Amigos, however, pulled it together in Game 2 and squeaked by, 22-21, to clinch its first championship in five years.

Meanwhile, Sakudi dominated the ladies field all year long and stamped an exclamation point to the end of its season in the form of a 28-3 shellacking over Check It Out.

For more information about the Chamolinian softball league, contact mark Palacios at 322-7444 or Liz Palacios at 287-8869. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

UBA

From Page 28

Garapan Community and Development Center.

Docomo Pacific and the UBA, as well as partners Hoopaholics 670 and the 670 Roll-

ers Basketball Club, sponsor the event.

For registration or more information contact UBA's James Lee at 483-0290, Garapan Community Development Center's Joe Diaz at 233-8978, or email unifiedbasketballassociation@gmail.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	18	7	.720	—
Boston	13	10	.565	4
New York	10	15	.400	8
New Jersey	8	18	.308	10 1/2
Toronto	8	18	.308	10 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	18	6	.750	—
Atlanta	16	9	.640	2 1/2
Orlando	15	10	.600	3 1/2
Washington	5	20	.200	13 1/2
Charlotte	3	21	.125	15

Central Division

Chicago	21	6	.778	—
Indiana	16	7	.696	3
Milwaukee	10	13	.435	9
Cleveland	9	13	.409	9 1/2
Detroit	6	20	.231	14 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	17	9	.654	—
Dallas	14	11	.560	2 1/2
Houston	14	11	.560	2 1/2

Memphis	12	13	.480	4 1/2
New Orleans	4	21	.160	12 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	19	5	.792	—
Denver	15	10	.600	4 1/2
Utah	13	10	.565	5 1/2
Portland	14	11	.560	5 1/2
Minnesota	12	12	.500	7

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	15	7	.682	—
L.A. Lakers	14	11	.560	2 1/2
Phoenix	10	14	.417	6
Golden State	8	13	.381	6 1/2
Sacramento	9	15	.375	7

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Clippers 107, Orlando 102, OT
Washington 111, Toronto 108, OT
Philadelphia 95, L.A. Lakers 90
Phoenix 99, Atlanta 90
Chicago 108, New Jersey 87
New York 99, Utah 88
Sacramento 100, New Orleans 92
San Antonio 89, Memphis 84
Houston 99, Denver 90
Oklahoma City 111, Portland 107, OT

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARANDA

From Page 28

Bong Malasarte led the awarding of trophies to winners of the inter-village league.

TEACHERS

From Page 28

yesterday's second game, allowing the Teachers to even up the series.

Tyce Mister top-scored for the Teachers in Game 2, drilling 10 points off three kees, one ace, and one xunk. John Nekaifes also drained three kees and one xunk for eight points, while Nick Gross made

XTERRA/Tagaman Enticer 2

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Ben Babauta, left, and Butch Sublemente near completion of the bike leg of last Saturday's XTERRA/Tagaman Enticer 2 held at PauPau Beach..



From left, Manny Sitchon, Ronald Villafria, and Daniel Calvo move out of the water.



Nicky Nichols head to the bike-run transition area.



Ronald Villafria, left, chases Charlie Sendin during the run leg of the race.



Brian Morris makes his turn to the finish line.



Lewie Tenorio slows down heading to the bike-run transition area.



A swimmer makes his turn for the second lap of the swim race.



Mieko Carey runs along the shore after completing one lap of the swim leg.



James Abuy nears the finish line.



Daniel Calvo gestures as he nears completion of the race.

NMBA
NORTHERN MARIANAS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

NMBA Gym will be temporarily closed due to the installation of taraflex flooring. The renovation of the badminton courts will be completed by February 12, 2012. For the meantime, members and players will be using the Gillette Multipurpose Gym for badminton practices starting February 1, 2012.

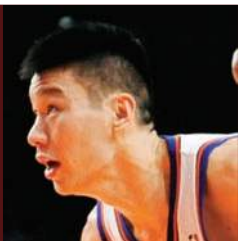
Northern Marianas Badminton Association
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
(Morning practices)

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM
(Evening practices)

2012 Men's B Futsal League
There are no games scheduled for today. Games will resume on Monday, February 13, 2012.

Lin scores 28,
carries short-
handed Knicks
again

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Belichick:
Giving Giants
TD gave Pats
best chance

PAGE 25

28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MP United holds ground vs Guam players



MP United U15's Andrew Johnson, left, dribbles against a Guam U15 National defender, while teammate Ryota Ito, right, looks on during a friendly game at the GFA artificial turf in Harmon, Guam.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Flight delays failed to dampen the spirits of MP United Football Club players who showed their wares in friendly matches in Guam over the weekend.



MP United U12 and U18 squads, which arrived in Guam early Saturday morning after their Friday evening flight was delayed, played three and two matches, respectively. MP United U15 also competed in three games that were all played last Sunday, as their Saturday flight was cancelled.

The youngest squad in the group first played against the Tumon Wings Saturday morning and almost forced a draw if not for an

See MP on Page 26

Aranda takes MVP plum of MDX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Newly minted 2011 MDX league champion San Antonio/Gene's Barber grabbed the most individual awards in the inter-village caging with MVP Jack Aranda leading the honor roll.

Aranda won the coveted MVP award after lifting San Antonio to an 87-72 victory in the winner-take-all title game against As Lito/Chow Queen in the 2011 MDX Amateur Radio Club Inter-Village Friendship League at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe last Sunday.

Aranda had a team-high 18 points in the finale, scoring baskets when it counted the most, as he nailed 11 markers in San



San Antonio/Gene's Barber's Jack Aranda pulls up for a jumper against San Roque defenders during their playoff game in the MDX caging at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Antonio's fourth-quarter break-away. The San Antonio shooting guard was a consistent double-figure scorer in the regular season and totaled 30 points in the quarterfinals and semis. San Antonio topped San Roque/Morales in the opening round of the playoffs, 82-66, and downed the San Vicente Saints in the Final Four, 80-61.

A trophy was awarded to Aranda during a brief ceremony after the title game last weekend.

Also receiving awards were Mythical Team members Pedro Castro and Jaymark De Guzman, Ezra Caro of Chalan Kanoa/Fong's Bakery, Travis Eubanks of San Vicente, and Sheen Metran of As Lito/Chow Queen and Best Coach Danny Bicara of San Antonio. MDX officials Peter Crisostomo and

See ARANDA on Page 26

Teachers equalize Rocball title series

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The best-of-five title series in the 2011 Rocball Fall League is now down to three after the Teachers managed to even up the championship showdown yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Teachers won Game 2, 35-29, to equalize and grab the momentum from top seed Aim Low going into today's pivotal Game 3.

It took the Teachers only three sets to tie the series and foil Aim Low's bid to move one win away from clinching the championship. In the first set of Game 2, the Teachers romped to a 13-5 win, while Aim Low recovered in the sec-

ond set with a 14-9 triumph. Despite the second-set loss, the Teachers still led, 22-19, going into the deciding third set, and eventually closed out the game early after a 13-10 victory in the final set.

Had Aim Low won the third set (and the Teachers still on top), the game could have gone into overtime where the former might have a slight psychological edge because of its Game 1 win.

Aim Low drew first blood in the finals after pulling off a 46-38 victory in overtime last Monday. In overtime in Game 1, Aim Low scored four aces for a quick 8-2 win in the deciding fourth set.

However, Aim Low failed to ride on the momentum of their Game 1 victory during

See TEACHERS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Teachers' Nick Gross bends to return a low ball from Aim Low during Game 1 of their title series in the Rocball league last Monday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

UBA/Docomo Island-wide Basketball Fest starts Feb. 18

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Unified Basketball Association is kicking off the 2012 Docomo Pacific Youth Island Wide Basketball Fest with a weekend tournament for players ages 15 and under starting Feb. 18 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The three-leg spectacle also includes a 17-and-under division and a 25-and-under category.

The U17 event will commence following the U15 tourney on Feb. 25 and 26, while the U25 event takes the floor on March 3 and 4.

The main purpose of the series is to promote youth sports activities during the peak of basketball season. It can also serve as good practice for play-

ers that may be participating in some off-island competitions.

There is a 25U March Madness Pacific Regional Championships event in Guam coming up this March, while the highly anticipated 17U Micronesian Basketball Tournament tips off in June.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three place finishers.

All three events will utilize a double-elimination format.

The entrance fee to participate is only \$50 per team for all divisions and rosters are limited to 12 players per squad.

The deadline to register is Thursday, Feb. 16.

Entrance forms can be obtained at the Safety 1st System office located along Middle Road, in Gualo Rai or at the

See UBA on Page 26

